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AND
Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1878.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1853.

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Literary Gazette Office, 15th January, 1853.

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REVIEWS.

The Songs of the Servians. [Die Gesänge der Serben.] Von Siegfried Kapper. Leipzig: F. A. Brockhaus.]

It is now many years since Goethe, with all the powers of sympathy, insight, and expression which belong to a genuine poet, rendered into German the French translation of Abate Fortis' Italian version of the most pathetically beautiful of the Servian ballads. This poem, 'The Lament of the noble Bride of Hassan Aga,' drew the attention of Europe to the intellectual wealth of a nation till then comparatively unknown. Goethe and Grimm in the 'Kunst und Alterthum,' Theresa von Jacob (Talvi) with her 'Volkslieder der Serben,' Gerhardt in his 'Vila,' and Wessely with his 'Servian Marriage Songs,' have come forward to gratify the longings of the German public after the freshness and vigour of the Servian poetry. In France, though the metres of the original could never be imitated in the language of the writers, the works of Eckstein and Madame Voiart, and the lectures of Adam Mickiewicz, served to diffuse a love for the literature of Servia. We can point in England only to the little volume of Dr. Bowring. These various works have derived their materials chiefly from the collection made by Dr. Wuk Stefanovitsch Karadzitsch, 'Narodne Srpske Pjesme,' Leipzig, 1823-24; and the originals of the translations contained in the subject of this article may nearly all be found in the work of that learned and praiseworthy enthusiast.

So far as regards the historical ballads, we can hardly wonder at the expressions of delight which these poems have elicited from some of the greatest intellects of Europe. Resembling Homer in their impartiality, repetitions, objectivity, mythological religion, and half-worship of heroes full of enthusiasm and simplicity—generally humane, but sometimes untameably ferocious—the wild romance, the occasional interblending of Christian and Pagan ideas,* the loving respect for women, the naïveté, the fanciful and allegorical introductions which characterize these ballads, are sufficient to distinguish them honourably from other popular narrative poems. An acquaintance with the remarkable history of the Servians must beget an interest in their literature. Wonderful indeed is the vitality of a people that has struggled through centuries of sorrow and oppression against the debasing influences of poverty, famine, disease, and ignorance. God, "the ancient slayer of warriors," has laid a heavy hand on Servia; but He has spared them their domestic love and their singularly beautiful poetic spirit.

Herr Kapper, unwilling to echo the strains of Talvi, and having composed an epic poem on the subject of the last Servian monarch, Kral Lazaro (which, he informs us modestly in a note, has already reached a second edition), omits the two cycles of ballads connected respectively with the fatal field of Kossovo and Marko Kraljewitsch, the type of the Servian people. The dates of the

poems in the present volumes range from the end of the fourteenth century to the present day.

"These songs," says our author, "are quite distinct from both the first-named groups of lays. Whilst in these a lofty heroism, deep religious feeling, the holy spirit of self-devotion, manliness the most lordly, and womanliness the most engaging, are the prevailing elements; in the later songs quite other peculiarities and characteristics appear in the foreground. The ancient ballads contain a trampled nation's memories of its greatness and freedom; the later singers contemplate the mournful present, their slavery and sorrow."

It is impossible to give more than a superficial idea of Herr Kapper's extensive collection. Three groups of ballads, relating respectively to members of the illustrious family of the Jakschitsches, to Janko of Cataro, and to Starina Nowak and his sons; fifteen poems devoted to the celebration of certain illustrious Haiduks, or robbers—great fighters against the Turk, unorganized soldiers of freedom; a series of seven ballads on the exploits and death of Ivo the Zengger, a romantic and thorough-bred hero, are comprised in the first and smallest volume of the work. The second contains dirges, drinking-songs, ballads on divers battles and warriors, love-stories, the legends and songs of the blind—blind-man and poet are synonymous in Servian—and a large selection from the graceful "female songs," of which more hereafter. In Kapper's collection, however, will be found but few of those fierce and vigorous ballads which spring like torrents from the mountainous regions of Servia.

The exceeding length of the historical ballads precludes us from giving any complete specimen of this section of Kapper's work; but such fragments as we can offer will afford material wherewithal to the plastic imagination of the reader may evolve a world of beauty and romance.

The following is the second of the cycle relating to the history of the ancient and illustrious family of Jakschitsch:—

"Heaven with morning-red is still unglowing,
From the morning-star no light is flowing,
Hearken, there the Vila calleth downward,
From the leafy mountain-wood Avala,
Calleth downward to the fort of Belgrad,
To the brothers Stjepan and Dimitri."

Three Turkish generals, with a countless force, have invested the city:—

"See, dear God, O what a mighty wonder!
Far as round the fort the plain extendeth,
If a drop fell from the clouds of heaven
Never would it fall upon the meadow,
It would fall on Turks or war-steeds only,
Or upon the Moslem's white pavilions."

Dimitri unbars the gate, gallops in terror from the town, eludes the Turkish army, and conceals himself in the depths of a forest. His love for his brother Stjepan, however, compels him to return:—

"So the Turkish warriors storm the city;
On four sides they fall upon the fortress;
Tschuprilitsch, the Visir, with his warriors
Storms the fortress by the open portal.
Not a soul is there to stand against him,
Not a musket pels, no cannon thunders,
And he wins the portal of the fortress
Without stroke of sword, or wound, or slaughter.
Through the town the Turkmen rush in madness,
Working woe and agony in Belgrad,
Smiting heads away," &c.

They seize Stjepan, and, binding his hands, lead him to the Visir, who fires off his ordnance in token of delight, and brings the prisoner honourably to the Sultan. The Lord of Stambol makes the captive warrior sit beside him, offers to wed him to his daughter, and to make him a mighty Visir, if he will turn Moslem—a proposition which Stjepan indig-

nantly scorns. The Sultan orders Stjepan to be decapitated; but the eloquence of Tschuprilitsch, assisted by certain yellow Hungarian ducats, induces the imperial theologian to yield his victim to the Visir, who is anxious to do a little proselytising on his own account. The Visir, however, is unsuccessful, and the heroic Giaour is again on the point of martyrdom, when the Pasha of Pasar, full of zeal and ducats, appears to attempt the conversion of Stjepan, carries him off, and commits him to a gaoler of most orthodox rigidity:—

"Here the Pasha sternly holds our Stjepan,
Holds him there a weary year of sorrow,
Yea, till woe itself was in his bosom.
Then the Pasha calls the fair Haikuna:—
'Hearken, thou, O purest gold, my daughter,
I would speak to thee, my daughter, hearken,
Go thou swiftly to thy wardrobe-chamber,
Open there thy coffers twain, all-golden,
And array thee in thy costliest garments,
Silken all, and all with gold embroidered;
Rob thee, darling, in that rich material
With the golden twine so thickly purpled;
Take within thy hand a golden apple,
In the other bear that water-flasket,
Full of odours of all mountain-flowers;
For I heard, and often have they told me
How this is a water of oblivion,
And if any drink and wash them in it,
Of their natal faith they grow regardless,
And forget their lineage and their nation.
Go below into the deepest dungeon,
In the dungeon open the twelve portals,
When thou openest a portal, close it;
Close it, as thou enterest, fast behind thee,
Till, Haikuna, till thou come to Stjepan.
When, Haikuna, to the Giaour thou comest
Reach him then the golden water-flasket,
That the hero drink and wash him in it,
And the Giaour will join the faith of Islam,
Ay, and take thee for his wife, Haikuna.'

"Ah these words are welcome to the maiden.
Ever since her eyes beheld the hero,
Had she suffered pangs no tongue may utter:
In her dreams she saw the hero mighty;
Every day she flamed in burning fever.
Straightway up she springs with limbs elastic,"—

and robed in all her splendour, bearing the vase filled with the odours of mountain-flowers, she descends and greets the hero in the darkness of his dungeon. Stjepan, however, sees through the artifice, and, dropping the flagon, lifts his garment, that the magic water may not even touch its hem:—

"For a moment was Haikuna wrathful;
Of a better plan she soon bethinks her;
Fondly she nears the fair young hero,
Speaks to him with winning maiden-accents:—
'Be a Turk, O thou mine eye of darkness,
Be a Turk, and I will be thy true-love,'"

This generous offer is, however, rejected by our hero. She again attempts to fascinate him, offering her cheek to his kiss; but a Giaour must never kiss a Turkish maiden:—

"Yea, the azure heaven would open upwards,
Down from heaven would stones in volleys thunder,
And would slay both me and thee, Haikuna."

Then spake Haikuna:—

"Stjepan, Stjepan, thou mine eye of darkness,
Not for all this world, and all its treasures,
Would I, Stjepan, ever be a Christian.
But for *thee*, O Stjepan, I would be one.
Pledge me now thy faith and troth, Belovéd,
As thine own true wife to lead me homeward,
Then at once I'll be a Christian, Stjepan,
And I'll take the treasures of my father,
And I'll fly with thee to fort Belgrad."

"When the hero Stjepan heard the maiden,
Straightway up he sprang with limbs elastic,
Both his hands he gave the glowing maiden,
Swearing by the faith and truth of Jesus,
As his own true wife to lead her homeward."

Our ballad (upwards of 400 lines in length) is now nearly ended. Stjepan and Haikuna gallop away with three loads of treasure and the Pasha's jewelled sabre and mantle:—

"Happily arrived in royal Belgrad,
Hero Stjepan brings a dozen friars,
And they christen, ay, and bless Haikuna,
And he leads her home, a wife beloved."

The second volume contains an interesting group of ballads, illustrative of family incidents and affection. Of these we select the 'Nine Ungrateful Sons' as a specimen:—

* The saints, for instance, in Servian poetry bear a certain analogy to the Homeric divinities. Elias wields the thunder of Zeus, and performs the duties of Charon, the ferryman. Mary (not the Blessed Virgin) darts the lightning. S. Pantaleimon answers to Adelus, and also presides over the heats of summer. Peter has wine, wheat, and the key of heaven in his charge, while John is the guardian of the rights of brotherhood and hospitality.—*Vide* 'Mickiewicz,' vol. ii. p. 225, and 'Kapper,' vol. ii. p. 404.

" Nine beloved sons a mother nourished,
Toiling for them with her distaff ever,
And she married all her sons to maidens.
" And when all the sons were richly wedded,
Then they all began to speak in whispers:—
" Only for our shame our mother liveth;
Would she were away upon the leafy
Mountain—she, our mother old, for ever!—
And the mournful mother olden heard them.
In her hand she takes her staff, and, trembling,
Fareth to the leafy mountain forest.
None there is to wander with the mother,
Only two grandchildren small and tender,
And they call:—" O grandmamma, come home now!—
Ye, they call; she followed the children.
" Soon see the old beloved mansion:—
By the mansion all the sons are standing,
Standing there, all changed to rocks of granite;
Into ice-cold walls their wives are changed,
Golden-winged doves—the little children—
Cooing, fly around from wall to wall."

Two Servian warriors escape from the dungeons of the Sultan, where they have been immured for nine years and seven months. One of the heroes, Stojan Jankovitsch, meets his aged mother in the vineyard cutting her hair away, bedewing the vines with her tears, and in her desolation calling upon the son, whom she fails to recognise. She tells him of her sorrow, lamenting sorely the fate of her daughter-in-law, who—

" Nine long years was faithful to her husband,
Ay, and more, for seven months she loved him,
But this morning she will take another;
Could I bear to see the shame and sorrow?
Ah, I flew in anguish to the vineyard."

Stojan, still unrecognised, enters the hall where the bridal party has already assembled, and receives permission to chant a song:—

" Built a little nest a tender swallow,
True and pure for nine long years she builded,
Ay, and more, for seven months she builded:
Ah, she will destroy it on the morrow!
Lo! there comes a noble falcon flying,
Flying from the palace of the Sultan,
He will never let the nest be rifled."

All, save the wife of Stojan, fail to perceive the drift of the song. She, however, rushes away for his sister, who comes and clasps her brother in her arms, covers him with kisses, and either

" Pours the burning tear-drops on the other,
Tears of joyance and of mighty yearning."

Late at night, when Stojan, having satisfied the greedy wedding-guests (*Swaten*), and given his sister to the disappointed bridegroom, is sitting down to supper with the whole party, his wailing mother enters, and—

" Like a cuckoo plaintively she waileth:—
On her son the mother thinketh alway—
" Stojan, O my son, my golden apple,
Never must thy mother sorrow for thee,
But for Jela, her my son's beloved,
Never shall I gladly gaze upon her.
Who shall stay at home for me, the mother?
Who shall meet the mother old and weary?
Who shall fondly ask the aged mother,
" Dear old mother, tell me, art thou weary?"

" And when Stojan's own beloved heard her,
Out she goes before the whitewall'd mansion;
By the queenly hands she grasps the mother;
To her ancient mother thus she saith:—
" Sorrow now no more, O mother dearest,
On thine old the sun doth shine a-glowing—
He has come—come home—thy son—thy Stojan!"

" When she look'd, the many-year'd mother,
When she gazed upon her son, her glory,
Dead she fell upon the gloomy pavement.
In his sorrow Stojan goes to grave her,
Grandly, as becometh a Zarina."

But the lyrical poems of the Servians (the *shenske pjesme*, or female songs) may perhaps be held to constitute a more remarkable department of their literature. In sunny clearness and perfection of form they present analogies to some of the pieces in the Anthology, while in their spontaneity, tenderness, purity, and almost universal joyousness, they excel the popular songs of any other nation. Sung, according to Talyj ('Literature of the Slavic Nations,' New York, 1850, p. 369), without instrumental accompaniment, but little of the poetry, to use a happy ex-

pression of our author's, is *absorbed* by the melody.* And, although Italian and oriental influences are occasionally perceptible, originality is the strong characteristic of these beautiful little compositions. The subjects are various, but, like most other poetesses, the authors have drawn their inspiration chiefly from their own true hearts. Every loving sigh, borne by the breeze of heaven from the great harp of humanity, has been worded sweetly by the Servian maidens. Their language, indeed, has been called the Italian of the tongues of Slavonia:—

" FOR WHOM THE ROSE GREW UP.

" Little maiden, tender rosebud,
Tell me now for whom you flower?
Is it for the fir so gloomy?
Is it for the slender pine-tree?
Or, O brightest, for my brother?
" I flower not for the fir so gloomy,
I flower not for the slender pine-tree,
Nor do I flower for thy brother,
But I, the little one, grow and flower
For thee, my love, alone, for ever!"

In the following little poem there is surely some graceful allegory lurking, like Ariel in the cowslip's bell:—

" WHAT THE DEW TOLD THE FLOWER.

" Bitterly the tender Basil waileth:—
" Gentle dew, why fall you not upon me?"
" For the last two morns I fell upon thee,
But to-day, O tender love, I tarried
Gazing on a very mighty wonder,
How the Vila wrangled with the eagle
For the verdant forest of Avala.
Spake the Vila: 'It is mine, the mountain.'
Spake the bird: 'Not thine, but mine for ever.'
And the Vila broke the eagle's pinion.
Now the little eagles wail in sorrow,
Wail aloud, and what do they know not.
See, there skins the swallow bearing comfort:—
'Weep and wail no more, my little eagles,
I shall guide you to the land of India,
Where the lovely amaranths are growing,
Growing even to the knees of horses,
And the clover to their lofty shoulders,
And the sunlight never fades from heaven.'
So the birdies gave themselves to gladness."

" The Vila," says Mickiewicz ('Les Slaves,' i. 302), " est un génie, un gnome, un sylphe. La poésie le figure toujours comme étant très beau; il vole dans les airs, s'amuse à ramasser les nuages. Il est dangereux de le surprendre au milieu de ses amusements; il égaré le voyageur; quelquefois il lui donne de bons conseils, mais le plus souvent il cherche à le tromper. Comme toute la mythologie Slave cet être n'a ni commencement ni fin, il n'a pas de généalogie."

Some of these songs are the mere voice of a sigh, as, for example—

" I am weary, weary sitting
At the window of the mansion,
Gazing ever on the ocean,
Barren ocean, mighty plain:
For the sails of my Beloved,
For my warrior's waving banner,
For the tambourines a-ringing,
And thy song, thy song, O love!"

This is from Talyj, and very beautiful:—

" Were I now a river cool and gentle,
Well I know where I would stream in joyance!
There below mine own beloved's window,
Where my dearest robed and unbroider,
I mayhap would quench his thirsty yearning,
Laving then his bosom with my ripples,
I might calm his dear, dear heart for ever."

A large section of the Servian nation has long been devoted to the faith of Islam. The compositions of the Mahometan Slavonians, as might have been expected from the injurious effect of the Koran on the aesthetic faculties of every people by whom it has been received, are occasionally tasteless and extravagant. Take the following example:—

* The blind rhapsodists, we should have observed, scrap out an occasional accompaniment for the heroic ballads from their one-stringed *Gusles*. Klapper gives a few specimens of the melodies employed by these bars (Pref. p. 25, & seq.). Their music is not a very lofty manifestation of art.

" Lo! what clouds are brooding over Travnik!
Rages fire, or is the plague within it?
Or have Yanya's eyes inflamed the city?
No, nor plague nor fire is raging fiercely.
Maiden Yanya hath inflamed the city,
Yanya with her eyes of wondrous darkness.
And two shops burst up in flaming fury,
And the town-hall where the Kadi judges."

The 'Lament of Hassan Aga's Bride' was, however, composed by a Mahometan rhapsodist. Mahometan Kadi's have saved from slavery such prisoners as were able to repeat their national ballads; and the following graceful little poem is marked 'Mohamedanisch,' in Herr Kapper's collection (vol. ii., p. 207):—

" IDLE IS ALL BEAUTY WITHOUT LOVE.

" Fair in sooth is Ali-Aga's true-love,
None is fairer in the land of Bosnia,
Nor in Bosnia, nor in Herzegovina,
Ah, but vain is all the maiden's beauty,
Ali careth never for the maiden,
But he loveth Omar's golden dovellet,
Who, within her cage close train'd and tended,
Never hath beheld the moon or sunlight,
Knows not how, nor where the corn is growing,
Knows not where the purple grapes are glowing."

In the ballad of 'Radoiza's Widow and Orphan,' the desolate mother, after giving the breast to her babe, is forced to leave the little child for ever:—

" And a week of woe she had not wandered,
When the full moon rose above the mountains;
Radoiza's true-love thus implored her:
" O thou moon, my calm and mighty pilgrim,
Hast thou seen my little lonely orphan?"

She proceeds to ask divers questions concerning her infant, to which the moon replies as follows:—

" Ah, poor Jela, Radoiza's true-love,
Over towns I wander far and cities,
Jela, I have seen thy little orphan,
Naked is he not, but robed in splendour.
Barefoot is he not, but richly booted.
Is he hungry? no, but gently feasted,
And they bathe him early every morning.
Ay, he wakens from his happy slumbers,
But he looketh never for his mother,
Looketh never whence thou comest to him,
Bearing him the mother's bosom, sweetly,
But he lacks a mother's heart beloved."

" This when Jela heard, the mournful mother,
One great cry of woe she wailed to heaven,
And her heart for sorrow brake asunder;
Down upon the earth, a corpse, she sinketh."

Goethe, says Bowring, called the following poem wonderful, alluding, of course, to Talyj's version, which differs in some respects from our author's:—

" PARTING LOVERS.

" Winding upwards rose a slender vine-tree,
Winding upward round the fort of Buda.
Ah, no vine-tree was it winding upward,
But a loved one round her own belovéd!
Early had the lovers been affianced,
Loved they ever since their days of childhood,
But they now must say adieu for ever.

" To the maiden thus the strippling murmured:
" Three broad streams, O maiden, are before thee,
And anigh the third a garden gloweth;
In the garden blooms a tree of roses,
From that rose-tree pluck a rose, O maiden,
Lay it near thy heart, upon thy bosom;
Faster than will fade the rose within it,
Faster fades my heart for thee, beloved!"

" To the strippling thus the maiden answered:
" Three high mountains, youth, are there before thee,
From the third there leaps a flowing fountain,
Nigh the fountain lies a rock of marble.
On the marble stands a silver chalice,
In the silver chalice lies a snow-flake.
Bear away the snow-flake from the beaker,
Lay it near thy heart, upon thy bosom;
Faster than the snow-flake dissolveth,
Faster melts my heart for thee, beloved!"

As a specimen of the Servian dirges (*Trauer-gesänge*) take the following. It is sung while the corpse is being borne from the house. At the moment of death, we may premise, the Servians believe that the soul commences an unending journey. The title Ban in the first line is used in honour to the departed:—

" Whither wilt thou, Ban, O whither?
To the cloister peradventure,
Where our dead are lowly resting?
Yet, O Ban, I fear me sorely,

Thou wilt come not home for ever,
For the ways are ever endless!
This alone I pray thee sadly,
When thou hast achieved thy journey,
Greet, O greet for us our dear ones.
Long ago we sent them thither,
Speak to them and tell them truly
How we sorrow, how we grieve,
For they dream of us, ah, never!
Never come they to their houses,
Never ask they others for us."

When the corpse is laid in the grave they tell the spirit:—

" Hold not our departed dear ones,
Hold them not in loving converse,
Send them here to us, ah, send them!
That we yearning may clasp them,
That our burning tears may cease."

The reader who is interested in such studies will find much in Herr Kapper's volumes to delight and to instruct. The intellectual activity of the Servians is still, we believe, in full vigour; and we hope to have further revelations from him of the richness of a remarkable school of poetry, for he declares that he has been long familiar with the language, literature, manners, and customs of Servia. His German is pure; his versification harmonious; he is animated by an enthusiastic love for his subject; and although we do not profess to understand the Servian, in reading his versions we feel a confidence in their accuracy analogous to that experienced by the beholder of a portrait noticeable for its individuality, although the features of the original are unknown.

Saxon Obsequies Illustrated by Ornaments and Weapons, discovered by the Hon. R. C. Neville in a Cemetery near Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire. Murray.

OUR primæval antiquities, while they invite attention and reverence, have produced as yet but speculation and conjecture. Stonehenge is, we suspect, likely to remain an unsolved archaeological problem to the end of time. Not a step appears to have been made in advance of the theories of the antiquaries of a past age; nothing plausible has yet been substituted for the crazy reveries of Stukeley, only equalled by those of the author of 'Cyclops Christianus.' The huge trilithons still frown defiance on those who would penetrate their meaning and reckon the age when they were first upreared. Like the gigantic bones of some antediluvian reptile, they excite the wonder of the ignorant and provoke the speculations of the learned. Human ingenuity has, to some extent at least, been successfully exercised on the monuments of ancient Egypt and Babylonia, but this Cyclopæan erection, England's chief primæval wonder, rude and uninscribed, remains to puzzle and perplex the learned for ages yet to come. In despair of any discovery which may throw a ray of light on the origin and purpose of Stonehenge, and other kindred remains of what, for want of a more intelligible designation, is called the Celtic period, the antiquary turns with some hope to those of a less remote age. Of the Romano-British period,—of the gradual submission of the conquered territory, there are many significant indications. A national British coinage, (this is attested by many examples of unquestionable authority,) the location of Roman mercenary troops in Britain, the records of many Roman coins yet extant, the existence to this day of many Roman camps and other military works, to say nothing of their stupendous barriers in the north of England, proclaim at once the dominion of the invaders and the introduction of civilization and its usual results. Out of the

darkness that succeeded little can be gathered. The resistance of the Romanised islanders to the fierce barbarian inundation is recorded (and recorded of them alone) in the wane of the empire, but they succumbed at last to a race yet untamed by civilization. Of that race the relics delineated in the volume before us are the mute though eloquent witnesses.

The extensive burial-ground explored by Mr. Neville—

" Is in the parish of Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire, about six miles to the south-east of the university town, and two to the north of the remarkable earthwork, known by the name of 'Fleams Dyke,' which traverses the country thereabouts from east to west, and is plainly visible from this spot, a field which contains sixty-six acres, called 'Spring Field,' in the occupation of Mr. J. Kent, of Little Wilbraham. It is a side hill of some eminence, about one hundred yards from the summit, whence the ground slopes gradually from north to south, so as to give it an aspect to that point. Over the crest of the hill runs an old Roman way now the road from Great Wilbraham to Newmarket, whence the locality derives its appellation of 'Streetway Hill.' This road actually borders on the burial-ground, and skirts its whole length, forming the boundary on the east side; on the north it is bounded by the road from Brinkley, through Sixmile Bottom to Little Wilbraham."

The present occupier of the land recollects that some forty years ago the ground was a common field traversed by high balks from north to south. Mr. Neville states it to have been subjected to much disturbance, both by the operations of agriculture and the prying of treasure-seekers; for, like the Arabs in Egypt, the peasantry of England cannot believe that archaeologists are really in search of anything less precious than gold or silver. This notion has been more fatal to many objects of antiquity than the much-abused law of 'Treasure Trove'; for when the ignorant clodhopper turns up an object not formed of the precious metals he almost invariably destroys or disfigures it irreparably. Such has doubtless been the case with the Saxon cemetery at Wilbraham; enough, however, has been spared to afford materials for a series of illustrations which cannot fail to be of considerable value to the archaeologist, although he will not entirely approve of the style in which they are executed. In such delineations the chief requisite is accuracy of detail, and not so much a pleasing picture as a scrupulously faithful representation of the object. These remarks apply more especially to the sepulchral urns, of which some very curious forms are given; but their characteristic features are hardly depicted as the archaeologist could wish. In some the markings or indentations appear as if in relief, which gives us a very imperfect idea of their peculiar ornamentation. The careful study of these urns, which were found full of calcined bones, in immediate proximity with the skeletons, is of great importance in our inquiries as to the race among whom such usages prevailed. By attentive observation, aided by further discoveries, we may at length learn why the rites of cremation and inhumation were observed contemporaneously by the tribes who once peopled this district; at present it is an unsolved problem, and every scrap of evidence should be carefully collected and chronicled. Mr. Neville will pardon us if we express our conviction that these considerations have not had their due weight with him; his object seems to have been the making of an attractive rather than a useful book, and one which

may be turned listlessly over by fair fingers on a drawing-room table.

The relics discovered in the Anglo-Saxon cemetery of Little Wilbraham, though numerous, afford but little variety, and not a single object that may vie with many of the same period. The fibulae are, for the most part, of the cruciform or trefoil shape. Only a single example of the circular fibula incrusted with coloured pastes, like the beautiful specimens discovered in the tumuli of Kent and the southern and midland counties, occurs in the whole of these extensive excavations. The knives and spear-heads are of the usual configuration. Glass vessels there appear to have been none; and not a single particle of evidence appears in addition to what has already been obtained by similar explorations in various parts of England. Mr. Neville has perhaps judged rightly in simply giving us an account of his discoveries without any comments or deductions of his own, since it is obvious he has nothing new to tell us as the result of his researches; nevertheless, we thank him for having placed them on record for the service of those who make this branch of our national antiquities their peculiar study.

The Private Life of Daniel Webster, By Charles Lanman, late his Private Secretary. Longman and Co.

The Life of Daniel Webster. An Address by Theodore Parker. Tweedie.

VERY melancholy and humiliating was the latter end of Daniel Webster. His friends trumpeted his fame to the last, and have tried to make a heroic scene of his deathbed. But there is no doubt he died a disappointed and broken-hearted man. He had long aspired to be the President of the United States, and he seemed pointed out to fill the high office by his talents, his character, and his services. In physical frame as well as intellectual stature he was truly an *ἀνδρας ἀρδεόντας*, a king-like man. Viewing him as an orator, a jurist, a statesman, he was to us in England the first name in the New World, and we deemed him worthy of being at the head of the great American Republic. But inferior men one by one stepped in, and bore off the prize which seemed within his reach. In 1836 Van Buren kept him from the nomination, in 1840 Harrison, 1844 Clay, in 1848 Taylor. He saw that without the support of the slave states of the South his election was impossible. In 1844, in one of his speeches, he had said: "What! when all the civilised world is opposed to slavery; when morality denounces it; when Christianity denounces it; when everything respected, everything good, bears one united witness against it, is it for America—America, the land of Washington, the model republic of the world—is it for America to come to its assistance, and to insist that the maintenance of slavery is necessary to the support of her institutions?" The audience were carried away by enthusiasm at this burst of noble liberty, and made Faneuil Hall ring with six-and-twenty cheers. What a contrast is his famous speech of the 7th of March, 1850! He refused to exclude slavery by law from California and New Mexico. He declared that Congress was bound to make four new states out of Texas, and that he would give Texas fifty thousand square miles of land for slave territory, and ten millions of dollars. He would allow all the territory below 36° 30' to become slave states; he would refund to Virginia two hundred million

of dollars, derived from the sale of the public lands, to expatriate the free coloured people from her soil; and, worst of all, he would support the Fugitive Slave Bill, "with all its provisions, to the fullest extent." Mr. Parker in his address describes the sensation at Boston when the telegraph brought the first news of this speech. Whigs and democrats alike treated the telegraphic despatch as a fiction, "they could not believe the lightning." But when the speech itself arrived, there was universal indignation and sorrow. One of the most conspicuous men in the Senate, then high in office, said that Mr. Webster "seemed inspired by the devil to the extent of his intellect." Some pretext was required for so strange an abandonment of principle, and for the advocacy of wrongs which he had spent his life in denouncing. A desire to maintain the integrity of the Union was the motive which he urged in defence of his conduct. If the Southern States were not humoured on the subject of slavery the Republic would be broken up. At a great festival at Capron Springs the sentiment was given, "The Fugitive Slave Law—on its execution depends the perpetuity of the Union." Mr. Webster responded to the sentiment, and said: "You of the South have as much right to secure your fugitive slaves as the North has to any of its rights and privileges of navigation and commerce." He went about the country advocating the fugitive slave bill, and other shameful enactments connected with slavery, silencing the rising indignation of the free states by the cry of "the Union in danger." He knew that there was no danger. The funds, which had proved a sensitive political barometer on the Boundary Question and the Fisheries Dispute, were never affected a single cent by the alleged peril of the Union from opposing the demands of slave-holders. The truth was that Daniel Webster wanted to be President. He must conciliate the South. What was the result? When the delegates met at the Baltimore Convention, to propose the candidate for the next election, out of two hundred and ninety-three votes, Webster had only thirty-three, and that only once! The Convention went to the ballot fifty-three times, but the men of the South, to propitiate whom he had sold his conscience and fair name, gave him not a single vote. He had turned his back on the slaves, the slaveholders turned their back on the unprincipled advocate who had pandered to their avarice that they might pander to his ambition. Is this language too strong? We quote part of the address by Theodore Parker, delivered before the citizens of Boston, by whom Webster was once adored:—

"After the 7th of March, Mr. Webster became the ally of the worst of men, the forefront of kidnapping. The orator of Plymouth Rock was the advocate of Slavery; the hero of Bunker Hill put chains around Boston court-house; the applauder of Adams and Jefferson was the tool of the slaveholder and the keeper of slavery's dogs, the associate of the kidnapper, and the mocker of men who loved the right. Two years he lived with that rabble rout for company; his name the boast of every vilest thing. 'Oh, how unlike the place from whence he fell!' Think of him! The Daniel Webster of Plymouth Rock, advocating the Compromise Measures! The Daniel Webster of Faneuil Hall, who spoke with the inspiration of Samuel Adams and the tongue of James Otis, praising the holy dead in his praise; think of him at Buffalo, Albany, Syracuse, scoffing at modern men who perilled their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honour, to visit the fatherless and the widows in

their affliction, and to keep themselves unspotted from the world! Think of him threatening with the gallows such as clothed the naked, fed the hungry, visited the prisoner, and gave a cup of cold water to him that was ready to perish! Think of Daniel Webster become the assassin of Liberty in the Capitol! * * *

"Daniel Webster went down to Marshfield—to die! His great heart—it was always a great heart, no downfall could make it little—his great heart broke! Daniel Webster died of his 7th of March speech! That word endorsed on Mason's bill drove thousands of fugitives from America to Canada. It put chains around your court-house; it led men to violate the majesty of law all over the North. I violated the law, and so did you. It sent Thomas Sims in fetters to his jail and his scourging at Savannah; it caused practical atheism to be preached in the churches of New York, Philadelphia, Washington, and, worst of all, Boston itself! and then, with its own recoil, it sent Daniel Webster to his grave, and gave him such a reputation as a man would not wish for his uttermost foe.

"No event in the American Revolution was half so terrible. We lost battles again and again, lost campaigns—our honour we never lost. The army was without powder in '76, in Cambridge; without shoes and blankets in '78, and the bare feet of New England valour marked the ice with blood when they crossed the Delaware. But we were never without conscience, never without morality. Powder might fail, and shoes drop, old and rotten, from soldiers' feet. But the love of God was in the American heart, and no American general said, There is no law higher than the Blue Ridge! Nay, they appealed to God's higher law.

"Cardinal Wolsey fell, and lost nothing but his place. Bacon fell; the 'wisest, brightest' lived long enough to prove himself the 'meanest of mankind.' Strafford came down. But it was nothing to the fall of Webster. The Anglo-Saxon race never knew such a terrible and precipitous ruin."

Against graver charges made in the same address, we hope that Mr. Webster's friends are able to offer satisfactory defence. He is accused of being directly bribed to undertake the cause of the slaveholders. We cannot believe this, for avarice was not one of his faults. Ambition, the last weakness of noble natures, is enough to account for his fall. But it would be wrong to hide the charges thus publicly brought against him. The truth of history and the character of public men require the facts to be known:—

"I wish the charges brought against his public administration may be disproved, whereof the stain rests on him to this day. A senator of the United States, he was pensioned by the manufacturers of Boston. Their 'gifts' in his hand, how could he dare be just? His later speeches smell of bribes. Could not Francis Bacon warn him, nor either Adams guide? Three or four hundred years ago Thomas More would not accept five thousand pounds which the English clergy publicly offered him, for public service done as Chancellor. But Webster in private took—how much I cannot tell. Considering all things, their wealth and his unthriftiness, it was as dishonourable in them to bribe as in him to take their gift. * * *

"In an age which prizes money as the greatest good, and counts the understanding as the highest human faculty, the man who is to lead and bless the world must indeed be great in intellect, but also great in conscience, greater in affection, and greatest of all things in his soul. In his later years Webster was intellect and little more. If he did not regard the eternal right, how could he guide a nation to the useful for to-day? If he scorned the law of God, how could he bless the world of men? 'Twas by this fault he fell."

"He knew the cause of his defeat, and in the last weeks of his life confessed that he was deceived; that before his fatal speech he had assurance from the North and South that if he supported slavery it would lead him into place and power; but now

he saw the mistake, and that a few of the 'fanatics' had more influence in America than all the South. He sinned against his own conscience, and so he fell.

"He made him wings of slavery to fly to lofty eminence. Those wings unfeathered in his flight. For one-and-thirty months he fell, until at last he reached the tomb. There, on the sullen shore, a mighty wreck, the great Webster lies!"

We turn from this painful subject to view Daniel Webster in his brighter days. In Mr. Lanman, who was his friend and private secretary, he has a biographer, blind indeed to his faults, but eloquent in describing the virtues which even his enemies acknowledged him to possess. The leading incidents in his political life are noticed; but the book chiefly professes to exhibit his private life and his personal character.

"The ancestors of Daniel Webster came originally from Scotland, and his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were named Ebenezer, and were descendants of Thomas Webster, who was one of the earliest settlers of New Hampshire. His father was a person of large and stalwart form, of swarthy complexion, and remarkable features. He was born and spent his youth upon a farm; served as a ranger in the famous company of Major Robert Rogers, and as a captain under General John Stark, during the Revolutionary war; was for several years a member of the Legislature of New Hampshire; and died while performing with honour the duties of judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was not only a man of superior intellect, but was distinguished for his strong and indomitable will—a characteristic which his distinguished son rightfully inherited. He was a Federalist in politics; and it is related of him that he was once taken suddenly ill while passing through a village which was noted for its democracy, and that, supposing that he was about to die, he beseeched his physician to remove him as soon as possible out of the place, giving, as a reason for his great anxiety, that 'he was born a Federalist, had lived a Federalist, and could not die in any but a Federalist town.' Mr. Webster's mother was Abigail Eastman, a lady of Welsh extraction, and of superior intellect. She was the second wife of her husband, and the mother of five children—two boys, Daniel and Ezekiel, and three daughters.

"Daniel Webster was born on the 18th day of January, 1782, in the town of Salisbury, Merrimack county, then Hillsborough, New Hampshire. The site of the house is two and a half miles from the beautiful Merrimack River, and in the immediate vicinity of that where his father built the first log-cabin ever seen in this section of country, and at a time when, between his residence and the borders of Canada, there was not a single human habitation, excepting the Indian's wigwam. The house in question is not now standing. * * * It was to this spot, and especially the log-cabin, that Mr. Webster alluded, when, in a speech delivered at Saratoga in 1840, he uttered the following touching words: 'I make to it an annual visit. I carry my children to it, to teach them the hardships endured by the generations which have gone before them. I love to dwell on the tender recollections, the kindred ties, the early affections, and the touching narratives and incidents, which mingle with all I know of this primitive family abode. I weep to think that none of those who inhabited it are now living; and if ever I am ashamed of it, or if I ever fail in affectionate veneration for him who reared it, and defended it against savage violence and destruction, cherished all the domestic virtues beneath its roof, and, through the fire and blood of a seven years' Revolutionary war, shrank from no danger, no toil, no sacrifice, to serve his country, and to raise his children to a better condition than his own, may my name, and the name of my posterity, be blotted for ever from the memory of mankind.'"

Of Webster's early life Mr. Lanman records many anecdotes. He tells how he

learnt his alphabet from his mother, how got his first schooling from Mr. Chase in a little school-house built of logs, his next teacher being Mr. James Tappan, a veteran pedagogue still alive, to whom his pupil was kind in his declining years:—

"When Daniel and Ezekiel were boys together, they had frequent literary disputes, and on one occasion, after they had retired to bed, they entered into a squabble about a certain passage in one of their school-books, and having risen to examine some of the authorities in their possession, they set their bed-clothes on fire and nearly burned their father's dwelling. On being questioned the next morning in regard to the accident, Daniel remarked 'that they were in pursuit of light, but got more than they wanted.'"

Afterwards Daniel Webster entered Exeter Academy, and at fifteen, after being prepared by a clergyman of the name of Woods at Boscowen, he entered at Dartmouth College, where he graduated in 1801:—

"While at college he was faithful to all his regular duties, but devoted much of his time to general reading, especially English literature and history. He took part in a weekly newspaper by contributing to it an occasional article; and also delivered an occasional address. Those who would like to read his first printed oration, which was delivered to the people of Hanover, are referred to the choice collections of American antiquarians; and it is to be regretted that it did not appear in the late edition of his works. Suffice it to say, that it proves his bosom to have been, even at that early day, full of patriotism, and that in his youth the seeds of his noblest sentiments had taken deep root. The title-page was as follows:—'An Oration, pronounced at Hanover, N.H., the 4th of July, 1800, being the twenty-fourth anniversary of American Independence. By Daniel Webster, Member of the Junior Class, Dartmouth College.'

"Do thou, great Liberty, inspire our souls,
And make our lives in thy possession happy,
Or our deaths glorious in thy just defence."

ADDISON.

Published by request, and printed at Hanover, by Moses Davis."

His first entrance into public life is thus described:—

"Mr. Webster was admitted to the practice of the law, in Boston, in 1805, and was first introduced to the public as a lawyer by the distinguished person with whom he had chiefly studied his profession, Christopher Gore. After practising in Boston about one year, his father died, and he returned to his paternal home. In 1807 he was admitted to practice in the courts of New Hampshire, and took up his residence at Portsmouth, where he remained about nine years.

"It ought to be mentioned in this place, however, that, just before entering upon his Boston practice, he was tendered the vacant clerkship of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, of which his father was one of the judges, and the appointment had been bestowed upon his son by his colleagues as a token of personal regard. The office was worth some 1500 dollars, which in those days, and that section of country, was equal to the salary of Secretary of State at the present time. Delighted with this realization of his most sanguine hopes, the father hastened to communicate the joyful intelligence to his son.

"That son was then a student in the office of Christopher Gore, in Boston. He received the news with sensations of gladness that he had never before experienced. With a loud, throbbing heart he announced the tidings to his legal counsellor and friend, and, to his utter astonishment, that far-seeing and sagacious man expressed, in the most pointed manner, his utter disapprobation of the proposed change in his pursuits. 'But my father is poor, and I wish to make him comfortable in his old age,' replied the student.

"'That may all be,' continued Mr. Gore, 'but you should think of the future more than of the

present. Become once a clerk and you will always be a clerk, with no prospect of attaining a higher position. Go on and finish your legal studies; you are, indeed, poor, but there are greater evils than poverty; live on no man's favour; what bread you do eat, let it be the bread of independence; pursue your profession; make yourself useful to the world and formidable to your enemies, and you will have nothing to fear.'

"The student listened attentively to this sound advice, and had the good sense to appreciate it. His determination was immediately taken; and now came the dreaded business of informing his father of his intended course. He felt that it would be a difficult task to satisfy him of its propriety, and he therefore determined to go home without delay, and give him in full all the reasons of his conduct. *

"Mr. Webster practised law in Portsmouth nearly nine years, and during that time one of his best friends, and also his most prominent competitor, was the distinguished Jeremiah Mason. On one occasion a gentleman called upon the former for the purpose of securing his services in a lawsuit; but Mr. Webster was compelled to decline the engagement, and recommended his client to Mr. Mason.

"'What do you think of the abilities of Mr. Mason?' said the gentleman.

"'I think him second to no man in the country,' replied Mr. Webster.

"The gentleman called upon Mr. Mason, and having secured his promise of assistance, he thought he would gratify his curiosity, and therefore questioned him as to his opinion of Mr. Webster. 'He's the very devil, in any case whatsoever,' replied Mr. Mason; 'and if he's against you, I beg to be excused.'

"Mr. Webster, who subsequently met Pinkney, and Wirt, and Emmet at the bar, recently said that he never feared any of them so much as Jeremiah Mason."

Of the characteristics of Webster's oratory Mr. Lanman gives the following account:—

"As were his manners at the bar some thirty years ago, so were they through his life, whenever he appeared in a deliberative assembly. He began to state his points in a low voice, and in a slow, cool, cautious, and philosophical manner. If the case was of importance, he went on, hammering out, link by link, his chain of argument, with ponderous blows, leisurely inflicted; and, while thus at work, you rather saw the sinews of the arm than the skill of the artist. It was in reply, however, that he came out in the majesty of intellectual grandeur, and poured forth the opulence of his mind; it was when the arrows of the enemy had hit him that he was all might and soul, and showered his words of weight and fire. His style of oratory was founded on no model, but was entirely his own. He dealt not with the fantastic and poetical, but with the matter-of-fact, everyday world, and the multifarious affairs of his fellow-men, extricating them from difficulties, and teaching them how to succeed. He never strove to dazzle, astonish, or confuse, but went on to convince and conquer by great but legitimate means. When he went out to battle, he went alone, trusting to no earthly arm but his own. He asked for no trophies but his own conquests; he looked not for the laurel of victory, but it was proffered to him by all, and bound his brow until he went out on some new exploit."

In 1812, when thirty years of age, Webster was first chosen representative to Congress, and delivered his maiden speech in June, 1813, on the subject of the Orders in Council. He was re-elected in 1814. In 1821 he was a prominent member of the State Convention, which revised the constitution of Massachusetts. At that time he was practising as a lawyer at Boston. For Boston he was re-elected representative in 1824. Next year he delivered his address on laying the corner stone of the Bunker's Hill monument. He was

again chosen to Congress in 1826, and in 1827 was elected a senator of the United States by the legislature of Massachusetts. The same year he delivered his oration on Adams and Jefferson, which breathe the noblest spirit of liberty. His speech in 1830, on what are called Foot's Resolutions, raised him to the highest pitch in public opinion. As an exposition of the true powers and functions of the Federal Government this speech is invaluable. He continued in the Senate till 1840. When Van Buren was elected President in 1836, Mr. Webster received the vote of Massachusetts. He was appointed Secretary of State under General Harrison in 1840. The sudden death of the President, and the accession of Mr. Tyler, broke up the cabinet; but Mr. Webster retained his office. It was at this time that he successfully conducted the negotiation which resulted in the Ashburton treaty—the greatest event in his official life, and the most important service performed by him as a public man. He soon after resigned his Secretaryship of State, and was again chosen senator for Massachusetts. On the death of General Taylor in July, 1850, and the accession of Mr. Fillmore to the Presidency, he was again appointed Secretary, and in this office he died, at his estate of Marshfield, on the 24th October, 1852.

In his private character, and as a man, Webster was much beloved. On this point we quote the testimony of Theodore Parker, as coming with more force from a political adversary:—

"He was a friendly man; all along the shore there were plain men that loved him, whom he also loved; a good neighbour, a good townsmen—

*Lofty and sour to those that loved him not,

But to those men that sought him, sweet as summer."

He had many popular qualities; he loved out-door and manly sports—boating, fishing, fowling. He was fond of nature, loving New Hampshire's mountain scenery. He had started small and poor, had risen great and high, and honourably fought his way alone. He was a farmer, and took a countryman's delight in country things—in loads of hay, in trees, in turnips, and the noble Indian corn, in monstrous swine. He had a patriarch's love of sheep—choice breeds thereof he had. He took delight in cows—short-horned Durhams, Herefords, Ayrshires, Alderneys. He tilled paternal acres with his own oxen. He loved to give the kine fodder. It was pleasant to hear his talk of oxen. And but three days before he left the earth, too ill to visit them, his oxen, lowing, came to see their sick lord, and as he stood in his door his great cattle were driven up, that he might smell their healthy breath, and look his last on those broad generous faces that were never false to him."

He was a devoted lover of nature and of natural history. He cultivated the acquaintance of naturalists, and Audubon was one of his warm personal friends:—

"On one occasion, when Mr. Audubon was there, he was presented by Mr. Webster with a wagon-load of miscellaneous birds, which the latter had ordered to be killed by his hunters all along the coast, and among them was the identical *Canada Goose* which figures so beautifully in the 'Birds of America.' Mr. Webster has said that the delighted naturalist studied the attitude of that single goose for an entire day, and that he was three days in taking its portrait."

Mr. Lanman tells an amusing story of a rencontre with two poachers, if poaching is a crime recognised in the laws of the New World:—

"He was once tramping over the Marshfield meadows, shooting ducks with Seth Peterson, when he encountered a couple of Boston sporting *snobs*,

who happened to be in trouble just then about crossing a bog. Not knowing Mr. Webster, and believing him to be strong enough to help them over the water, they begged to be conveyed to a dry point upon his back. The request was of course complied with, and after the cockneys had paid him a quarter of a dollar each for his trouble, they inquired if 'Old Webster' was at home, for as they had had poor luck in shooting, they would honour him with a call. Mr. Webster replied, 'that the gentleman alluded to was not at home just then, but would be so soon as he could walk to the house, and then added that he would be glad to see them at dinner.' As may be presumed, the cockneys were never seen to cross the threshold of 'Old Webster.'

We add one other extract relating to his person and manner:—

"In his personal appearance Mr. Webster was an extraordinary man, and at the age of forty was considered the handsomest man in Congress. He was above the ordinary size, and stoutly formed, but with small hands and feet, had a large head, very high forehead, a dark complexion, large, black, deeply-sunken, and solemn-looking eyes, black hair (originally), very heavy eyebrows, and fine teeth. To strangers his countenance appeared stern, but when lighted up by conversation, it was bland and agreeable. He was slow and stately in his movements, and his dress was invariably neat and elegant; his favourite suit for many years having been a blue or brown coat, a buff vest, and black pantaloons. His manner of speaking, both in conversation and debate, was slow and methodical, and his voice generally low and musical, but when excited it rang like a clarion."

A complete edition of Mr. Webster's works was published last spring at Boston, in six octavo volumes, edited by the Hon. Edward Everett.

In 1839 Mr. Webster visited England, and was received in this country with a respectful and hearty welcome. In the first number of Grant's 'London Journal,' the author of 'Random Recollections of the Lords and Commons' gives a graphic sketch, in his own light style, of Webster's personal appearance, and some of the incidents of his visit. Mr. Grant describes his seeing him in the Court of Exchequer in the company of Lord Brougham, who chiefly 'lionized' the American stranger in London. They sat on either side of Mr. Baron Gurney during a Welsh trial of some interest. The contrast between Brougham and Webster in appearance, dress, and manner, is amusingly told. Webster was dressed like a substantial English yeoman—brown coat, buff waistcoat, and dark small-clothes; Brougham wearing a blue surtout, white waistcoat and trowsers, white stockings, and thin shoes, while a gold chain and a gay watch ribbon with a large bunch of seals gave him an air of smart dandyism:—

"The severity of Mr. Webster's countenance, the repose of his features, and the motionless position in which he sat, must have struck everyone more forcibly from the perpetual smile which played on the face of his lordship, the incessant and rapid movement of his muscles, and the infinitely diversified attitudes into which he put his body."

We have met with an amusing account of a scene which took place one evening when Brougham took Webster to the House of Lords. It was noticed in some of the journals of the day, and was published in America by a sketcher in the 'New York Gazette.' It was about the time when the Whig ministry were tottering to their fall, and the ex-Lord Chancellor did not spare his old friends a hit when he could give it. After placing Mr. Webster he went among the members, chatting to one and another, and evidently letting

them know that a distinguished visitor was present, for those he spoke to turned to look at his companion. Soon after a peer rose and asked postponement of some resolutions, expressing a hope that it would meet the approbation and assent of 'the learned Lord.' Lord Brougham nodded assent. This done, another similar request was made by another peer in regard to another subject, also hoping that the postponement would meet with the assent of the 'learned Lord.' This drew from him a like assent, with an extra nervous twitch of the nose and cheek. Strange to say, a third similar request followed, with an equally special hope that it might meet the assent of the 'learned lord,' whereupon his learned Lordship arose, and taking his peculiar attitude, remarked, that when he came down to the house that evening he did not suppose that so much honour and personal distinction awaited him; that he had scarcely got his seat before one noble Lord made a direct appeal to him for his assent to the postponement of one question, and this followed by a second appeal from another noble Lord, and now again comes a third, equally looking to his special acquiescence. 'Why, my Lords, this is strange indeed, and not less embarrassing to me. Should any distinguished stranger be now present, [and here he turned and looked towards Mr. Webster, and nearly every head turned instinctively in that direction also,]—I say, my Lords, if any distinguished stranger were here present, he would really be led to suppose that I was a man of some consequence here, when it is well known to your Lordships that I have at this moment no more weight or influence in this house than—[here he paused, and looking over the table towards the ministerial bench, and bowing in that direction,]—than any of Her Majesty's ministers.' This, of course, brought on a general chuckle, in which the ministers could scarcely refrain from joining.

Of the closing scene of Daniel Webster's life a full and interesting account has appeared in the public journals. His intellect was clear and his faculties sound to the last; but under the calm of the surface there must have been the workings of a perturbed spirit. To the Fugitive Slave Bill and the slavery policy in general he made no allusion. In the face of death he was too honest to say anything in its defence, yet too proud to acknowledge his errors. The closing years of his life form a striking contrast to those of Sir Robert Peel, the statesman in this country to whom he bears the greatest general resemblance. Peel's best days were his last days, when for conscience and his country's good he sacrificed power, place, and many associations and friendships. Webster sacrificed for ambition all that true virtue and patriotism hold most dear. The death of the one caused among his countrymen a burst of regretful admiration, of the other a wail of mournful pity. The story of his glorious career, and of its melancholy termination, has this one moral above all others—that it is dangerous, even for the attainment of present ends, to sacrifice principle for policy; and public men may learn, from the cloud that rests on the reputation of Daniel Webster, and from the troubles in which the slavery question is now involved, that 'what is morally wrong can never be politically right.'

Much may be gleaned from this volume that is curiously characteristic of American society, and it will, doubtless, be extensively read.

The Water Lily on the Danube; being a brief Account of the Perils of a Pair-Oar during a Voyage from Lambeth to Pesth. By the Author of the 'Log of the Water-Lily,' and illustrated by one of the Crew. John W. Parker and Son.

Our readers may have seen a paragraph which ran the round of the papers last autumn, announcing the apocryphal enterprise of three English gentlemen who were said to have found their way in a pair-oar across the Channel, up the Rhine and Maine, and down the Danube, on their way, in the same fragile conveyance, by the Black Sea to Constantinople. Considering how far the story had travelled, its exaggerations were upon the whole mildly drawn; for the appearance upon the Danube of one of Messrs. Noulton and Wyld of Lambeth's airy craft was quite enough to set the imaginations of our German friends working with unusual vigour. What actually *was* done by the three adventurers in question forms the subject of the present lively volume; and although the enterprise is stripped of its marvels, it possesses sufficient interest to make the narrative well worth perusal.

Having two years ago made an excursion on the Neckar, Maine, Rhine, and Moselle, in a four-oar, and found it full of pleasurable excitement, two of the party, together with a fresh hand, determined last summer on taking a wider range, and accordingly transported themselves and their boat by steam to Kitzingen on the Maine, as their starting-point. Leaving Kitzingen on the 23rd of July, they pulled up the Maine to Bamberg, thence along the great Ludwig's Canal to its juncture with the Altmühl, and taking the Danube at Kelheim, pulled down to Pesth, which they reached on the 3rd of September. They were twenty-five days on the water, and pulled in all about seven hundred miles, or about twenty-eight miles a day. The rest of the time was passed in making excursions to the most interesting points lying along their course.

The making of a book was probably the last thing in the minds of the two briefless barristers and undergraduate, who made their way so merrily and independently through much of the finest scenery in Europe. They are, obviously, manly fellows to boot, with no cheap sentimentalism about them. We are therefore spared all those details of things seeable but not seen, and feelings possible but not felt, which often make tours the most tiresome of all reading. Carrying the reader along, with the same easy spirit of enjoyment and fun which lightened their own enterprise, the writer sketches with a salient pencil such characters and scenes as actually impressed themselves on his mind most vividly at the moment. There is a dash and heartiness in the style that agreeably reflect the buoyant character of these pioneers in a new mode of transit. The writer justly rates as of some value the claims of his expedition to the feature of novelty, a charm which will tempt many to follow in his wake. Only Englishmen, however, with their superfluous energy and pluck, are likely to follow up the idea. For them it has the fascination of just sufficient difficulty and danger to give it zest. For them, too, its independence has peculiar attractions in these days of routine. Hear our author on this point:—

"Instead of being the slaves of the time-table of a railway company, here we are starting, stopping, lounging, hurrying, retracing our steps, or pro-

gressing, diverging from our track, and resuming it, just as circumstances or our own fancies dictate. Our posters are always at command, and never need bait or bait but when we are inclined to such indulgence ourselves. Armed with a sufficient stock of good temper (which is indispensable to the success of a scheme involving such close and unbroken companionship), and with a constitution indifferent to an occasional ducking, I am certain that should any of my readers ever be tempted to follow in our track, they will acknowledge that, of all methods of travelling that they have hitherto tried, this is infinitely the most agreeable; and when I add that our united expenses from the 15th of July, the day that we left London, till our arrival at Pesth, on the 3rd of September, were not more than £60. (inclusive of the carriage of our boat to Kitzingen, and the difference between the price that we gave for it and that for which it was sold), I think it will be admitted that a long purse is at any rate not absolutely necessary.

Let no one, however, start in the course of the *Water Lily* who is not able to take the water like a spaniel. Wet clothes must be a matter of indifference, and he must have the merry heart that, as Autolyce sings, "goes all the day," and can find amusement at every turn. All these qualities the *Water Lily's* crew seem to have possessed in perfection, and the love of a lark, no doubt, had abundance of gratification among the Teutonic dreamers, "much bemused with beer," to whom their enterprise was as wonderful as a labour of Hercules. Here is a sketch of a "learned Theban" whom they encountered in the Swan Inn at Wurzburg:—

"At supper, a native doctor, in barnacles and hair about a quarter of an inch long, stuck up like a worn-out scrubbing-brush all over his head, was very inquisitive about our proceedings; and having pumped us to his satisfaction, informed us that he would take a passage by the steamer up the river the next day, in order that he might enjoy the felicity of our society. When we went to bed, we left him over a bottle of wine, and under the impression that we had gone to bed in the house. Shortly after this, as we were looking out of window at the stars, and cockswain was pensively blowing a few notes on his cornopean (on which instrument he is a distinguished performer), he was hailed by a voice;

"*Drunken Individual.* 'Don't make a larm up dere.'

"*Coxswain.* 'Geh zum henker.'

"*Drunken Individual.* 'Voici une jolie dame qui me regarde, et pourquois pas?'

"*Coxswain.* 'Va t'en, pauvre gris. Sie sind toll und voll.'

"*Drunken Individual.* 'Wie meinen sie, I am Englis, I am wid two friends from England come in my own chaloup, and go in steamer to hill tomorrow. Caum down from de troisième étage; laches! sacrés mangeurs de chou-crouté.'

"*Smith.* 'Parlez Anglais, donc; we are Russ, and can understand.'

"*Bow.* 'Cia mar the sibh an diugh? Eirich suas, agus their dhuinn do naidheachd.'

"*Drunken Individual.* 'Naunsense; I have been at Auchsfurt, and am baccalaureus and doctor.'

"*Smith.* 'How moch is that?'

"*Drunken Individual.* Moch, you must not say moch; you must say mush; em—oo—say—ha, &c.'

"To make an end of a long story, we arranged a hostile meeting for ten the next morning, ducked him with a jug of water and turned in. I need hardly mention that this was our friend whom we had left at the inn, and who had sallied out, taken us for German students, and tried to pass himself off on us as one of ourselves. The next morning we met this disciple of Esculapius, all smiles, in the coffee-room, little thinking that we were the individuals with whom he had had the polyglot alteration the night before. When we informed him

that a drunken man had rather disturbed us last evening, he beat a precipitate retreat, and we saw him no more."

At Bamberg again the voyagers fall into the hands of a bore of the true Teutonic breed, who is hit off in graphic outline. He was

"A professor of something, who had seen us arrive the night before, had been down to the boat to take a sketch of the rudder, and now came to inquire what that extraordinary machine was, that was attached to the stern of the boat by ropes, and which caused us to move with such marvellous velocity. Heaven save us from our friends! this worthy man seemed to think it his mission to take us under his wing. Poor fellow! I believe he meant it most kindly; but of all the intolerable bores that ever were inflicted on any unfortunate victims, surely this individual was the most intense. Providentially he was engaged during the greater part of the day with his pupils, but at every spare moment he swooped down on us with the most unrelenting kindness. Among other things that he insisted on our seeing, was a collection of rubbish that he had amassed during a life of some sixty years; he had it all spread out in his lecture-room, and for an hour we had to admire a mass of trash, of which the most interesting article, by far, was an old ground-plan of St. Paul's. His pupils were waiting at the door to come in, and we implored them by signs to do so, and put an end to our torture. At last they took compassion on us; but it was of no use; they were bundled out immediately; and it was only when he found that we were all yawning out of a window, having left him simpering by himself over an old number of the 'Illustrated News,' that he suffered us to depart. Peace, and a cleaner shirt be with him!"

The following passage will illustrate the kind of difficulties which the *Water Lily* and her crew had occasionally to encounter on the Danube. They have started from Linz, with Herr Bauer, the landlord of their hotel, on board, "placed squatting in the bows, with strict injunctions to sit still":—

"After we had proceeded a few miles, our passenger requested us to put him down at a house which he pointed out, the approach to which lay between two islands. On looking in that direction, we at once perceived that there was not sufficient water for our boat; but on Bauer's absolutely assuring us that barges continually went by that channel, we reluctantly yielded; the result was as we had anticipated—in a few moments the boat's keel began to grind against the bottom, when we instantly sprung out; the stream was so very strong that we were nearly carried off our legs, just as a person who jumps out of a carriage going at full speed has some difficulty in avoiding a fall. On looking towards our little man in the bows, we saw him, with clenched teeth and pallid cheeks, sitting upright, and clinging, like grim Death, with one hand to each gunwale. We could not resist laughing (which rather reassured him), especially when he said, 'Oh, this is interesting, very interesting; yes, I may say this is very interesting, indeed!' Poor victim! how he must have cursed the hour in which he trusted himself in the clutches of the rabid islanders; but it was certainly entirely his own fault that he got into this mess. It was nothing very serious, however, for we soon led the boat (which, relieved of our weight, floated easily) into deep water again, and jumping in, proceeded to the house in question. This we found to be a little inn situated at the junction of the Traun with the Danube, where the best Traun crawfish (celebrated all over Austria) are to be had."

The effect of the crawfish is so exhilarating that Bauer's courage rises, and he determines to continue his seat in the boat as far as Grein:—

"Poor deluded man! he little knew what was coming. We pulled on for a short distance quietly

enough, when we passed a barge, one of the men on which, knowing Bauer, hailed him with these encouraging words:—'Farewell, farewell, Mr. Bauer, we shall never see you again alive!' Presently we heard a dull roaring sound, which gave us to understand that something unpleasant was going on; it got ominously louder, and we soon discerned a line of white breakers, stretching quite across from one side to the other of the channel in which we were. There was no time for a council of war, as we were in the middle of the stream, which was rapidly hurrying us onward, so we pulled straight in for the bank as hard as we could, and reached it about fifty yards above the reef; and very formidable it looked, the foaming waves rising about four feet high, with a considerable fall on the other side. While we were considering what was now to be done, we saw a loaded barge coming down the stream. 'Now,' we said, 'we have only to watch where she goes, and we can follow, inasmuch as for every inch of water we draw, she draws three;' so we marked her progress with considerable interest. She came steadily on, being steered for a part of the rapid which lay nearly in the centre of the stream, and where the waves were considerably less than in any other place, and passed safely through. 'That's our line of country!' we shouted, and immediately proceeded to get the boat ready for a fresh start, when we were interrupted by a plaintive voice saying, 'You will excuse my accompanying you, gentlemen, but I have a wife and family, and I can't swim; I think I will find a passage home by land.' There was no answering this pathetic appeal, so we determined to see Mr. Bauer on his way home, and then start by ourselves; but lo! when we came to investigate matters, we found that we were on a small island, with another rapid on the other side. As it was impossible to leave the wretched man there, as he might have been starved long before any human being would have approached such a spot, we were left to the choice of three alternatives—viz., either to pull back again the way we had come; to carry the boat across the island to the other channel, or farther down the side we were now on, beyond the rapid. We soon came to the conclusion that the first should be avoided by all means, if either of the other two were at all practicable; for it would have taken us all the rest of the day to pull back against the stream which had swept us down here in less than an hour. So Bow volunteered to go out as dove, and investigate the stream on the other side, and stripping off his clothes he plunged into the torrent at the upper end of the island; he was carried under three or four times, and twice nearly snagged, but he ultimately rolled out unhurt on a bank some way below; he came back, however, without an olive branch, and the information that all progress in that quarter was hopeless, so we hauled the boat down as near to the breakers as we could, and then, after carrying, punting, and dragging her alternately, through swamp, rushes, and willows, we finally launched her again below, in comparatively calm water. But Mr. Bauer was still in difficulties; the idea of getting his feet wet was most depressing to him; and as he looked at the course that it was necessary for him to take to regain the boat, his countenance was so piteous that Bow took him on his back, and trotted off with him through the reeds, and deposited him in safety once more on *terra firma*. We then started again. For several miles the water was exceedingly agitated, the current was deep and rapid, but it heaved and fell, twirled round, ran this way and that, in such an eccentric manner, that it rendered coxswain's duty by no means an easy or agreeable task. I must do Mr. B. the justice to say that he behaved with the most undaunted pluck; for after telling us that, after what he had seen of us, he didn't care if the Falls of Niagara were close at hand, he quickly laid down and went to sleep as calmly, or, perhaps, more so than if his head had been laid on the pillow by the side of Mrs. B. I really believe there is not another German, from the sources of the Danube to the frontier of Hungary, who would

have done the same for all the beer and tobacco in Europe."

The sketch of Pesth will, to the general reader, form perhaps the most interesting portion of the book. There the voyagers were most hospitably and heartily entertained, and found themselves at once among friends, in the persons to whom they had brought introductions:—

"Most of our kind friends had in some way or other suffered by the late revolution; some had lost half their estates, others had been imprisoned, condemned to death, and pardoned, made to serve as privates in the Austrian service, &c. &c.; but their misfortunes have not made them less hospitable to strangers. Unlike other continental nations, they seem to have a decided partiality for the English. Most of our friends' horses and grooms came from England, and their style of dress is exactly that of Bond-street, quite different from the prevailing fashions in Germany and France: one of them told us that everything he had on, from his hat to his shoes, was made in London, where he had his tailor, shoemaker, saddler, &c."

The remarkable attainments of the Hungarian nobles as linguists are noticed. Hungarian, Latin, German, and French are spoken by all; and by most, Italian, English, and some other dialect of the country, such as Wallachian, Servack, or Servian, as well. This power may be partly owing to a natural gift at linguistics; but it arises in a great measure from the practice of exercising the pupil in speaking the language while he learns it, and not, as with us, confining his knowledge to the ability to write or construe. Latin, from being the language formerly used in the Diet, is universally spoken among the educated classes; and nothing amazes a Hungarian more than to find, when he opens a conversation in Latin with a Professor of one of our Universities, whose vocation is to instruct in the classics, that he may perhaps be understood, but certainly cannot be answered in the same tongue. That we are the most backward nation in Europe in speaking all languages but our own is grievously to the discredit of our system of education.

We borrow the following passage from a spirited description of a *fête* at the shrine of Maria Einsiedel, about six miles from Pesth, where pilgrims, and pipers, booths, gambling, eating, drinking, and dancing, with an exhibition of disgustingly distorted beggars, made the chief part of the solemnity, to which "a most enduring smell of garlic, onions, and tobacco" was the appropriate incense:—

"The chief attraction was the music of the Zigeuners. These gypsies are the musicians of Hungary; they play on the violin, and an instrument called 'the cymbals' (*Hungarice Tzimbalom*), not the brass dishes that we call by that name, but a kind of flat harp, shaped like a triangular box, with a number of wires running across it; it is played on with two little sticks tipped with leather. This national music is very peculiar and inspiring, generally commencing with a slow-measured air, then darting off into a wild quick measure, and then again subsiding into a melancholy cadence. We had often heard these Zigeuners in the coffee-houses at Pesth, when they would, if we came in with any of the Magyar nobles, come and stand round us, and play at us, and the excitement that it produced among our friends showed how deeply these national airs moved them; after some time they would spring eagerly from their seats, and going in among the musicians, would move about, stamping time to the measures, and giving them handfuls of money. We asked them why they did not dance; but they said that if they did, the police would not allow the Zigeuners to play, and that they would then lose almost the last pleasure

that was left to them. The Rakotzy March (the Hungarian Marseillaise) is forbidden to be played at all. On this day, when we were far away from the town, music was going on in every direction, and dancing too: the dance is almost exactly similar to a Scotch reel, except that each couple start independently,—the gentleman with his arm round his partner's waist, as in a waltz, and occasionally emitting a yell, as in the Highlands. We stood looking on for some time, but our Magyar friend could not stand that long, and presently seizing a bright-eyed lassie by the waist, he plunged into the thickest of the fight."

The illustrations by the coxswain of the *Water Lily* are clever. His forte is caricature, and they only want a little more firmness in the handling to be excellent. Altogether the volume is calculated to beguile a leisure evening agreeably, and it aspires to no higher aim.

Italian Irrigation: A Report on the Agricultural Canals of Piedmont and Lombardy. By R. Baird Smith, F.G.S., Bengal Engineers. W. H. Allen and Co.

THIS Report is addressed to the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company, and is printed by order. Within the last twenty-five years the Government of India has been carrying on vast works for the improvement of agriculture by means of irrigation. Anxious to procure any information which the experience of other countries might afford, the Court of Directors, with their usual enlightenment and liberality, about two years ago sent Captain Baird Smith, an able officer of engineers, then in Europe on furlough, to study the great works of irrigation in Northern Italy, which have always been regarded as the most complete in the world. The Directors were fortunate in securing the services of Captain Baird Smith for this mission, as he possessed ten years' experience of such works in the East, and had acquired there a distinguished reputation as a practical hydraulic engineer. Shortly before leaving India he was selected to draw up a statement as to the agricultural improvement of the newly-acquired territories of the Punjab by irrigation, his report on which received the warm approbation of the Governor-General. The plains of Northern Italy have, from earliest times, been proverbial for their fertility, which has chiefly been the result of a well-organized system of artificial irrigation:—

"To study this system in its various relations—to examine the details of its works, so famous in the history of hydraulic engineering—to investigate the principles, and note the practical application of those legislative enactments which, by universal consent, are held to be the most perfect at present in existence—to become familiar with the actual operation of that machinery for the distribution of water to the cultivators, which is considered by most observers to come nearest to the type of theoretical perfection, the history of which will be found hereafter to have an almost romantic interest—and, finally, to observe carefully those sanitary arrangements which the continued experience of ages may have suggested for preserving the public health with the least possible sacrifice of individual interests, were the chief objects prescribed to me in the instructions with which I was favoured."

Many readers may remember a striking passage in Macaulay's 'Life of Lord Clive,' giving a vivid picture of the horrors of an Indian drought and famine:—

"In the summer of 1770, the rains failed; the earth was parched up; the tanks were empty; the rivers shrank within their beds; and a famine,

such as is known only in countries where every household depends for support on its own little patch of cultivation, filled the whole valley of the Ganges with misery and death. Tender and delicate women, whose veils had never been lifted before the public gaze, came forth from the inner chambers in which Eastern jealousy had kept watch over their beauty, threw themselves on the earth before the passers by, and with loud wailings implored a handful of rice for their children. The Hoogley every day rolled down thousands of corpses close to the porticos and gardens of the English conquerors. The very streets of Calcutta were blocked up by the dying and the dead. The lean and feeble survivors had not energy enough to bear the bodies of their kindred to the funeral pile or to the holy river, or even to scare away the jackals and vultures, who fed on human remains in the face of day. The extent of the mortality was never ascertained, but it was popularly reckoned by millions."

So recently as in 1837-38 a similar calamity afflicted the north-western provinces of India, and swept off hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants. Happily Mr. Macaulay is mistaken in speaking of calamities like these as being "fearful visitations which the best government cannot avert." Wherever the system of canal irrigation has been extensively carried into effect these evils have been always mitigated, and, in time, will be wholly warded off. Referring to irrigation in connexion with the famine of 1837-38, Captain Baird Smith says—

"The sacrifice of revenue to the extent of nearly a million sterling, the harrowing distress to which the whole agricultural population of the lower and central districts of the country between the Ganges and Jumna were subjected, the painful inability of government or the European community to afford relief commensurate with the necessity for it, and the striking contrast presented by those districts for which canal irrigation had been previously provided, were circumstances too remarkable to be passed lightly over."

Few are aware of the magnitude of the works which have been commenced, and are still in progress, in British India. After describing one of the greatest of the Italian works, Captain Smith compares its dimensions with one of the Anglo-Indian canals:—

"Before leaving the Muzza canal, I must take the opportunity of correcting a misapprehension on the part of the Lombard historians and writers on irrigation. They are under the impression that the Muzza is the largest canal of irrigation in the world. It is no more than justice to the British government in India to mention, that the existing canal west of the river Jumna has a volume equal to that of the Muzza, and a length of course more than ten times greater. Its area of irrigation is nearly five times that of the Muzza; its works are far more numerous—in all respects equal, in some decidedly superior, to those of the Lombard line. Instead of 75 outlets, it has upwards of 670; and instead of half-a-dozen bridges, it has 214; and so on with other works. Finally, its gross rental, instead of 1400/-, is upwards of 30,000/- a-year; while it has secured to the agricultural community benefits fully equal to those obtained from the Muzza. With the Ganges Canal the greatest in Lombardy will stand no comparison. The volume of water of the Indian line is thrice that of the Muzza—its area of irrigation eight times—its length thirty times—its estimated annual income hundred times greater; and there are no works, either on the Muzza or any other canal I saw in Northern Italy, which approach in magnitude to those now in progress in Northern India."

We quite agree with our author when he expresses regret that, not only on the Continent, but even in England, so little is known of the actual results of British government in India:—

"I cannot refrain from saying that I think the

government of India does itself the most grievous injustice by taking no measures whatever to convey to the public authentic information regarding those great works, which, with equal advantage to its subjects and itself, it has been occupied in developing vigorously during the last thirty years. The impressions of the character of the British government in India, among intelligent foreigners, I found to be of a very unsatisfactory kind; and it was gratifying neither to my national nor personal feelings, to have to rectify the idea that we had done little or nothing to improve the condition of the people. As men's minds in Northern Italy were thoroughly familiar with the nature and influences of works of irrigation, I found that even the imperfect accounts I was able to give of what the English in India had already effected in this department, were productive of good. The constant commentary on the information given was, however, 'why are no accounts of such works communicated to the world?' And I earnestly hope it may yet be considered desirable that a worthy record of them should be made."

The first volume of Captain Smith's work is divided into two parts—the first of which consists of the personal narrative of his tour of inspection; and the second presents historical and descriptive details of the canals of irrigation in Piedmont and the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. The appendix to the same volume gives a valuable sketch, historical and descriptive, of the irrigation system of Northern and Central India. The second volume treats of the subject in its practical and legislative aspects, including the difficult point of the measurement of water, the best modes of division and distribution, general administration and police, and sanitary regulations.

As to the influence of canal irrigation on climate, and the evils which might be dreaded from excessive evaporation, Captain Smith has the following observations bearing on the extension of the system in India:—

"It was a serious subject of alarm to Government and others, to contemplate the possible results of introducing irrigation over about $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres in Northern India through the means of the Ganges canal. It was said we were about to create a climate so damp as to be wholly incompatible with the habits and the feelings of the population, and to insure all kinds of evils arising among them in consequence thereof. Let the state of Lombardy be considered, and let it be remembered that we have there, in latitude 45° — 46° , an extent of irrigation as great as it is proposed to establish in latitude 25° — 29° , and I am sure that all such fears as I have above referred to will disappear. I doubt much whether the influence of the whole extent of irrigation to be effected by the Ganges canal will cause the slightest perceptible change in the summer climate of the north-western provinces; and if a slight change is caused, it will far more probably be a beneficial than an injurious one, for a certain increase of humidity in the air, during the intensely dry months of summer, would be a blessing to man and beast, as every one who has felt a genuine 'hot wind' in May or June will be ready to admit."

The general impression left on the mind, from a comparison of the Italian and Anglo-Indian works, is thus stated:—

"As regards the works themselves, whether reference is had to their designs or modes of execution, I do not think the Italians are superior to ourselves; and in regard to the manner in which the efficiency of the works is maintained, they are, I must frankly say, decidedly inferior: but in the theory of distribution, in points of interior economy connected with the use of water, and in the exactitude and details of legislation, they are far in advance of us. When, however, it is borne in mind that the one system has been in full operation for six centuries, and has, during that period, had all the care of governments, and some of the highest intellects in the country applied to aid its development, while the other has not been more than

twenty-five years in actual operation, the differences above adverted to need not be wondered at. I make bold to assert, that if the same energy continues to animate, and the same intellect to guide, the progress of the system which the British government has established in India, as of late years have characterised its operations, it will not be twenty-five years more before we have our methods of distribution, application, and legislation, theoretically equal to, and perhaps in some respects practically better than, those now existing in Northern Italy."

In the concluding chapter of his able and valuable work the author points out in forcible terms the benefits, moral and social, as well as economical and political, to be expected from the vigorous prosecution of the subject in which he is interested. He shows the importance of the system of irrigation as the main source of securing plenty and wealth, in diminishing poverty and crime, and in many ways forwarding the cause of good and prosperous government:—

"The development of the irrigation system in India is, I hold, one of the most important of the duties attached to our position there. It is fortunately a duty, too, which is, in every point of view, its own reward. While it promotes the prosperity of the agricultural classes, it secures and increases the financial resources of the State. While it contributes powerfully to the increase of the material enjoyments of the community, it has proved itself, by wise experience, to be a moral agent, gifted with civilizing influences, of a nature readily recognised, and willingly submitted to. Statistical details and magisterial experience show clearly, that where irrigation, with its pleasant train of consequences, is introduced, crime diminishes, plenty and security prove the best policemen, lawless habits yield to their genial influences, and men who were the Ishmaelites of society fall, without force or constraint, into the ranks of the great army of industry.

"The value of the means whereby the scanty pasture land, or the waste itself, may be converted into fields capable of yielding any, or all, of the rich products of Indian agriculture, or by which the localities already yielding such products may have their capabilities increased, and their returns secured, scarcely admits of being over-estimated. So long as agriculture is left dependent on the vicissitudes of the seasons, those periodic famines, which devastate the richest portions of our territories, may be expected to recur. So long as masses of the population wander over great tracts in search of a precarious subsistence for themselves and the cattle on which they depend, there will be dark spots, marked by much suffering, and requiring the constant presence of repressive force; or, finally, so long as the staple sources of the revenue of the State are so specially influenced by ebbs and flows of agricultural prosperity, there must be those losses and sacrifices, of which past experience presents so many examples. In solving successfully the social and fiscal problems involved in such considerations as these, and others of a like kind, which will naturally suggest themselves, there are doubtless many agencies, moral and intellectual as well as physical, to be employed. But I believe that those who have watched most closely the influence of irrigation on the habits and feelings of the people, will be best disposed to rank it high in the scale of the material agents of civilisation."

Captain Baird Smith's book is alone a sufficient answer to those who, even in our own day, are ever ready to undervalue the benefits of British rule to the natives of India. The irrigation works of the Company have from their commencement exhibited a wise and beneficent care for the welfare of the country, and of which this Italian mission of inquiry is a fresh instance. Captain Smith has executed his commission in a manner creditable to himself and worthy of the objects to the promotion of which his services were directed.

Politique de la Restauration in 1822 et 1823.
By Count de Marcellus. Paris: Lecoffre.

COUNT DE MARCELLUS was French *charge d'affaires* in London in 1822 and 1823, and as such was specially entrusted with the negotiations which took place with respect to the determination of the French Bourbons to send their army into Spain to assist King Ferdinand in crushing the sacred cause of constitutional liberty, and in establishing complete despotism. Having been behind the scenes during the whole of that iniquitous affair, our author is able to throw great light on it, and his book on that account is a valuable contribution to the history of the times. But we have not the slightest intention of entering with him into a review of political events which took place thirty years ago, and have no perceptible bearing on those of the present day. We only notice the book for the sake of culling from it a few gossiping facts which will perhaps be amusing to the English reader. And here they are, without introduction or comment. The Duke on parliamentary majorities:—

"I had a conversation with Mr. Canning, the Duke of Wellington, and Lord Liverpool on the projected intervention in Spain. Mr. Canning objected that the majority in the French Chamber in favour of it was only two-thirds, and that the English government had never commenced war with such a small majority. On this the Duke of Wellington remarked: 'I am not so learned as my colleagues in parliamentary figures, but I know Spain a good deal better. If you advance without delay and without hesitation you will succeed. The best majorities, be assured, are cannon and good soldiers.'"

George IV. on constitutional government:—

"For the happiness of the world we ought not to see our institutions planted amongst any people. What is pretty good with us, is worth nothing at all to foreign countries. Every soil does not produce the same fruits or contain the same minerals; it is the same with respect to nations, their manners and characters. Remember this, my dear Marcellus, it is my unchangeable conviction."

How a French *charge d'affaires* wrote of Mr. Canning:—

"London, 20 July, 1823.

"It is time to cast a serious look towards the future, and on the dangerous and able minister who has placed himself at the head of the destinies of England. We must either overthrow or convert him. We cannot overthrow him, however. His principal enemy in the cabinet, the Lord Chancellor, chief of an influence which is dying away, and decrip itself, has not been able to exile him to the throne of the Indies. Mr. Peel, young, firm, and popular, is advancing without impatience towards the supreme functions which cannot fail to be his one day. The Duke of Wellington, a warrior, but little redoubtable on the field of intrigue, has been obliged to yield to the ability and talents of Mr. Canning. Lord Westmoreland and Lord Harrowby are not his rivals; Lord Palmerston is not his antagonist. Finally, he is supported by Mr. Robinson, the key to the Treasury, the pivot of the financial administration, and by Lord Liverpool, whose mind he has entirely captivated. Mr. Canning, therefore, cannot be overthrown.

"We must, consequently, change our line of conduct. Let us try to do so. The point is to make him European, instead of an exclusive Briton, as he is. Let us display in his eyes the *éclat* of great diplomatic renown; let us assemble a congress. Let him go there to treat of the interests of Turkey, of the American colonies, of our last four revolutions extinguished in two years, of Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. He was born a plebeian—let Europe cover him with favours; let honours and grand crosses be heaped on him. Inaccessible to gold, he is not so to praise. Let us

by praise reconcile him to his old monarchical opinions."

What the French Minister of Foreign Affairs (Châteaubriand) thought of Canning:—

"Paris, 23 July, 1823.

"I do not believe in the possibility of ejecting Mr. Canning, and I think, as you do, that we must flatter him in order to try to convert him: but wounded vanity never repents, never becomes reconciled, never pardons, when it is not combated in an elevated heart by noble sentiments, and by a generous *penchant* for sacrifices. Mr. Canning has none of these qualities. He is a man of talent, of instruction, and of wit; but he has nothing in him which is great or sincere, and his ambition will always dominate his principles."

Authors are proverbially negligent of money matters; and it appears from M. de Marcellus that when any one of them happens to be elevated to the dignity of Ambassador or Minister of Foreign Affairs, he remains as careless of cash as in his struggling days, when a 5*l.* note is a great object. Thus, when Châteaubriand left London, where he was ambassador, and became minister, he charged M. de Marcellus, his successor in the Embassy, to wind up his affairs, and his astonishment was immense on learning from that gentleman, that after all claims on him were paid there remained a sum of 60,000*fr.* (2,400*l.*) and his grand state carriage to boot. He thus wrote:—

"Paris, 24 March, 1823.

"You are a marvellous steward, or rather a true magician in finance. What! there are 240*l.* coming to me from my Embassy! Why it is a larger sum than I obtained from the sale of my dear residence in the Vallée aux Loups, when I was forced to put it up for auction on the Place du Châtelet, amongst the furniture of the poor! And the sum which was then strictly necessary for a chastised minister of state will be now an Ambassador's profit!!! O fortune! my pilgrim's tent will be never thy temple! You may be sure that in a few months there will not remain to me a single farthing. As to the carriage, I keep it. I still fancy I see good old Bushnell, who made it, accompanying us on horseback to Carlton House, devoting with his eyes that daughter of his heart—watching over it in the royal courtyard—and returning with it in triumph to Portland Place. I have some idea of sending it to Mehemet Ali, in order that, after having carried the Ambassador of France through the streets of London, it may roll the Pacha of Egypt over the sands of the Nile. Carriages have also their destiny—*Habent sua fata!*"

NOTICES.

The Convocations of the Two Provinces, their Origin, Constitution, and Forms of Proceeding; with a Chapter on their Revival. By George Trevor, M.A., Canon of York. J. and C. Mozley.

Much has been said and written lately about the revival of Convocations, and it is a question likely to occupy a still more prominent place in public attention. The press has teemed with pamphlets for and against the Anglican church being allowed to resume synodal action, and to possess the power of internal government apart from the control of the state. So long as the relations of church and state exist, as at present, there is no prospect of this becoming a practical question. While the church is established by law, and endowed by the state, it must be under Parliamentary control. The theory of the church being independent of the state in things spiritual, while dependent on it in things temporal, was conclusively settled ten years ago, so far as Parliament is concerned, in the controversy which ended in the disruption of the Church of Scotland, and the establishment of the Free Church by those who regarded the possession of internal self-government a point of such moment as to be gained even at the sacrifice of endowed

connexion with the state. For this sacrifice few of the Anglican clergy are prepared. But in the English church there are many who long for the restoration of representative and deliberative institutions, or rather for greater ecclesiastical action than Convocation ever has possessed in Protestant times. The Rev. Canon Trevor advocates the revival of Convocation, but is disposed to admit the liability to a share in the representation. The present work is chiefly an historical treatise, narrating with much learned labour the origin of the Convocations of the two English provinces, and describing their constitution and functions. Besides the more ordinary sources of ecclesiastical history, Mr. Trevor has diligently used various works specially bearing upon his subject, as Wilkins's 'Concilia Magne Britanniae et Hiberniae,' the 'Synodalia,' edited by the Rev. Dr. Cardwell, Principal of St. Albans Hall, and Pearce's 'Law relating to Convocations of the Clergy.' By far the most interesting publications on the subject are the controversial works of the beginning of the eighteenth century, when Atterbury, Wake, Dr. Kennett, Bishop Gibson of London, Dr. Hody, and others, whose writings are cited in the present volume, discussed the rights and privileges of Convocation. The 'Acts of the Convocation of York' have been searched by the author, who is proctor for the clergy of the archdeaconry of York. The volume contains a large store of well-selected information on the subject, which is more of importance on historical grounds than for any practical purposes, as the license of Convocation in its old form can scarcely be looked for in our time in an established church. The concluding chapter gives a review of the recent discussions on the revival of Convocation.

Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land. Vol. II. Part 1. Hobart Town: Welch. Launceston: Dowling.

In Mrs. Meredith's lively description of her 'Home in Tasmania' has satisfied any readers that the island of convicts is not so utterly dismal a place as many imagine, this volume of the 'Proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land,' will cause still more surprise to those who are not aware of the flourishing condition of science and learning at the antipodes. Some of the papers in these Tasmanian transactions would do credit to any scientific society in Europe. On local subjects, statistical, geological, and economical, the papers are chiefly of direct importance to the colony, but they supply facts of interest to the general reader. One article, 'On the Law of Storms in the Pacific and High Southern Latitudes,' read by Mr. Thomas Dobson, head-master of the High School, Hobart Town, is a valuable contribution to the history of this subject. Other communications, as 'On the Discovery of Coal at the Don and Mersey Rivers,' 'On the Cultivation of Flax,' are of economical importance to the colonists; and his Excellency, Sir W. T. Denison, F.R.S., governor of the colony, and President of the Society, supplies papers on various practical subjects, including the best modes of the culture of turnips and potatoes. The proceedings of the Society, under the enlightened patronage of Sir W. Denison, give evidence of vigorous and useful prosecution of observation and research. The minutes of proceedings at the meetings of the Society are published. The Appendix contains a number of miscellaneous articles, selected or adapted from the European journals, furnishing an abstract of scientific intelligence that must prove acceptable to Tasmanian readers. The two opening papers of the volume are statistical reports, by James Barnard, Esq., one of them giving the results of the census for Van Diemen's Land in 1851. One important point in the statistics of the colony, not referred to in ordinary returns of the kind, the state of scientific knowledge and culture, is sufficiently attested by the present volume.

The Prophets and Kings of the Old Testament. By Frederick Denison Maurice, Professor of Divinity in King's College, London. Macmillan and Co. The sermons which form this volume were preached by Professor Maurice in the chapel of Lincoln's Inn, and as in their style they were adapted to an educated audience, so will their perusal be the

enjoyment chiefly of learned and thoughtful readers. Mr. Maurice justly observes that it has been too much the custom with theologians and divines to deal with the Old Testament apart from the literacies of its history, and to study the prophets merely as predictors of future events, not also as "preachers of righteousness." He considers that "the Old Testament prophets, taken in their simple natural sense, in that sense in which they can be understood by and presented to a lay student, clear up difficulties which torment us in the daily work of life; make the past intelligible, the present endurable, the future real and hopeful; cast a light upon books; deliver us from the tyranny of books; bring the invisible world near to us; show how the visible world may be subjected to its laws and principles." With such views the nature of these sermons will be understood. But Mr. Maurice's remarks about the usual method of dealing with the Old Testament writings in the pulpit is only applicable to English theology of a recent date. The works of the old Puritan divines are rich in practical applications of the ancient Jewish history, and indeed they owe much of the discredit into which they have fallen to the extreme length to which they carried adaptations of Jewish story to modern government and society. But their applications of Old Testament lessons to personal and daily life are continual and important; nor is this use of the Hebrew scriptures less frequent in Scotland and other Presbyterian countries where the Puritan writers are still admired and their influence felt. Even in popularly written books, like Gilfillan's 'Bards of the Bible' and Dr. Chalmers's 'Daily Scripture Readings,' the comments on the prophetic writings abound in such practical remarks. With the theological literature of the seventeenth century, by far the richest in great works of divinity, Professor Maurice's acquaintance is evidently slight. On the same subjects as some of the old commentators he treats anew with vigorous and original thought. To most English readers this mode of dealing with the prophetic scriptures will be fresh and instructive. He handles his themes in academic style, yet with boldness of thought and force of language. The subjects range from the epoch of Samuel to that of Ezekiel, leading points throughout the intervening cycle of prophecy being selected for each sermon. A previous volume of 'Lectures on the Old Testament' brought down the Jewish history to the period of Samuel.

The Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening. By Joshua Major. Longman and Co.

The author of this work has had above forty years' professional experience as a landscape gardener, and here presents an abstract of his views both on the theory and practice of the art to which he has devoted so much study and labour. On all matters connected with the formation and improvement of scenery by art, Mr. Major's remarks and suggestions are worthy of attention. On many points there must ever be diversities of taste and of opinion, but in general the contents of this volume will commend themselves to the approval of readers of judgment and refinement. To the objection that some might raise against the publication of such a work, on the score of its injuring the profession of the landscape gardener by destroying its emoluments, Mr. Major very sensibly observes that he always finds persons whose taste is the most cultivated the most anxious to employ a professional man to suggest or superintend their plans or improvements. In the absence of professional advice, the directions given for all the arrangements of artificial scenery, from the planting of forests down to that of a flower-bed, will be found of much practical value. Nor does the author confine himself to beauties dependent on horticultural and floricultural art, many architectural hints of importance being thrown out, as well as directions for the construction of bridges, lodges, fountains, garden-seats, summer-houses, and other adjuncts of parks or pleasure-grounds. A section is devoted to public parks connected with large towns. There are various plans and designs, as well as frequent woodcuts, illustrative of the latter. We should add that, while the treatise is

essentially of the most practical nature, the didactic part is relieved by agreeable discussions on the principles of landscape gardening, with comments on the theories and works of various writers on the subject. Mr. Major writes throughout as a man of sound taste and much practical experience in all departments of his profession.

Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington. By Henry Thomas Braithwaite, author of 'The Desert Isle,' &c. Pickering.

AMONG the many metrical memorials of the Duke of Wellington, we find this ode worthy of special notice. There is something of the old poetic fire as well as the lyric measure of Dryden and Gray in some of the passages, and the whole is a spirited and well-sustained dirge. A few extracts will bear out our estimate of the poem. It begins with a reference to his death at Walmer Castle:—

"I hear a midnight sound of woe,
A voice of sobbing by the sea,
Drear by the coast the waters flow,
With bated thunder mournfully."

"Where but to thee, thou conquering Sea,
Should turn the guardian of the shore?
No dearer life for evermore
Shall come to fall asleep by thee.
No loftier death shall ever crown
Thy rocks with a superior past,
A thousand generations down!
No grander Captain seek at last
His first dread requiem from thee,
And quitting thus the shore of Time,
Across the boundlessness sublime,
Pass calm to his eternity."

The character of Wellington, and the peculiar glory of his conquests, are well described:—

"His laurels are not scared
By vengeance' lurid fires,
No stone of all his fame is reared
On hatred's dark desires.
His genius sate in crowned calm,
And to eternal duty true,
Did ne'er its prosperous might imbue
In Freedom's, or his country's blood;
But ministered all-soothing balm.
No wide-accusing solitude
For him ensured a despot's throne;
No cruel guile, nor murderous mood
For former friends, in him were known.
He stands in self-command alone!
Sleep on, ye dead! he calls ye not
With all his majesty to vie,
Who robed the grandeur of his lot
In pure and simple modesty."

The ode concludes thus:—

"Calm, O thou mighty! rest,
Rest honoured ever more,
With all thy battles o'er;
And God's deep quiet brooding on thy breast!
We will not vex thy sleep,
Yet suffer us to weep!
We will not stir thy tranquil shade
By recreant heart or baffled blade,
While rising from thy memory deep
Great virtues, worthy thee, are made
Heirs to thy patriot might—
In thy heroic arms array'd
To hold thy boundless glory bright,
We will not vex thy sleep,
Illustrous spirit! yet suffer now
Our love o'er thy dark urn to bow—
These solemn tears to weep."

Mr. Braithwaite's poem is dated from Clare Hall, but it has little of the dull monotony too characteristic of University poetry.

The History and Antiquities of the Town of Lancaster. Compiled from authentic sources by the Rev. Robert Simpson, M.A.

It is a fact, not less strange than true, that few works require more ability in their preparation than those devoted to Topography, and yet we are mortified to find them perpetually attempted by incompetent hands. The author of this volume tells us in his preface that "it is not his province to offer opinions, but to state facts." On this head many will differ from him; but all will agree that it is the province of an author or compiler to examine the validity of what he proffers to his readers as such. In the room, however, of his own opinions he gives us nearly all the fabulous stories invented and perpetuated by English and Irish writers on British antiquities, from Aylett Sammes to Sir William Betham, besides numerous quotations from obsolete and bygone works of no weight or authority; in fact, the book is an affair of patchwork throughout,—a compilation in which

we can discover no judgment or discrimination whatever, everything being quoted upon trust, and crudely thrown together.

Sermons. On the Sabbath Day, on the Character of the Warrior, and on the Interpretation of History. By Frederick Denison Maurice, M.A. John W. Parker and Son.

WHAT are called occasional sermons are either the very dullest of all pulpit discourses, or the most interesting compositions, according as delivered by a commonplace preacher, or by a man of genius and good sense. Very small is the number of divines capable of "preaching to the times," intelligently and profitably. Professor Maurice is one of the few metropolitan preachers whose comments or reflections educated and thoughtful men would care to hear on topics of the day. On more purely religious and doctrinal subjects many parish clergymen are far more likely to be spiritually useful to their hearers, but on occasional subjects the opinions and views of a man of research and learning are worthy of being regarded. On this ground many will be glad to read the Professor's sermons on the Death of the Duke of Wellington, on the Prophetic Signs of the Present Times, and on the Christian Sabbath; the last theme suggested by the proposed opening of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham on that day, the evil consequences of which Professor Maurice is rightly unable to see, pleading at the same time for the spiritual sanctification of the day of rest.

translation is executed throughout with faithfulness, and in some passages with elegance and spirit. To Bohn's Illustrated Library an attractive and interesting volume is added, *The Life of Wellington*, military and civil, by an old soldier, presenting a good sketch of his military career, and in the latter chapters giving well-selected extracts from other writers, as well as original remarks on the Duke's personal and political life and character. A collection of miscellaneous anecdotes from various sources is appended; extracts also from the Duke's letters and speeches, and an account of his death and of the national funeral. The materials of the work are chiefly taken from Maxwell's *Life*. There are sixteen good line engravings of the most remarkable scenes in the history. The volume forms one of the completest and best popular histories of Wellington's life yet published.

In the Standard Library the second volume appears of *Foster's Life and Correspondence*, edited by J. E. Ryland, A.M. In the Philosophical Library, Mr. Dawson Turner's valuable *Notes on Herodotus* are given, being annotations on the Greek historian, original and selected from the best commentators. Besides the notes on the text, the introductory pages and the Appendix contain matter that will be prized by the scholar. The learning and laborious research of the author are apparent in every page of the work, which is a valuable contribution to classical school literature. It was first published in 1847, and this second edition contains various additions and improvements.

Of a variety of pamphlets we can give little more than the titles:—*A Letter to Thomas Baring, Esq., M.P., on the Indian Civil Service*, by Sir Edward Colebrooke, Bart., advocates important reforms, especially as to the education and qualifications of the civil servants of the Company. Sir Edward's suggestions are worthy of attention, as coming from one who long occupied a high judicial station in India. *A Lecture on Sanitary Improvements*, delivered by Cuthbert W. Johnston, Esq., F.R.S., at the Ipswich Mechanics' Institution, contains valuable practical hints for the consideration of local boards of health, or others concerned in sanitary measures. Mr. Johnston is chairman of the Croydon Local Board of Health, the affairs of which are managed in a way worthy of being imitated elsewhere. *An Essay on the Poison of the Cobra di Capello*, by John Cockle, M.D., is suggested probably by the recent fatal case at the Zoological Gardens, and presents a general view of the present amount of medical knowledge on the subject. A letter to the Earl of Lonsdale, by Thomas Ramsay, *On the Shortcomings of our Public Education*, forcibly points out evils which the author thinks the government may do much to remedy. Mr. Ramsay advocates the support and encouragement of ragged schools by the Council of Education, instead of their being left as at present to private and irregular charity. The aid now granted by government does not reach the classes of society most requiring it. *Remarks on the Proposed Changes in the Constitution, Jurisdiction, and Procedure of the Sheriff's Courts of Scotland*, by an advocate, not a sheriff, deal with questions now undergoing discussion in Scotland, with suggestions for rendering the Sheriff's Courts of much greater efficiency than hitherto. Scotland has long possessed in her Sheriff's Courts many of the advantages which England is beginning to enjoy in her County Courts, since the recent law reform agitation. In the Sheriff's Courts there is, however, still much room for improvement, and some useful and practical reforms are here pointed out. *A New System of French Pronunciation*, by M. A. Thibaudin, French Master of Queen Elizabeth's School, Ipswich, presents many ingenious and philosophical views on the subject, somewhat complicated for the unaided use of learners, but worthy of the careful study of teachers and advanced pupils. Under M. Thibaudin's own superintendence we have no doubt that his new system is found easy and efficacious. *A Dictionary of French Verbs*, by the same author, is a very able and useful work. The January num-

SUMMARY.

AMONG the early publications of the present year one of the most conspicuous is a new and cheap edition of *Lord Byron's Poetical Works*, in eight volumes, of which the dramas occupy two, 'Beppo' and 'Don Juan' two, Miscellaneous Poems two, 'Childe Harold' and the Tales one each. The size of the volumes is convenient, and the typography beautiful. This pocket edition of 'Childe Harold' will be the companion of many a traveller abroad and the delight of many a reader at home. A second edition is published of work which has been the guide to much agreeable study and observation of vegetable life, *The Growth of Plants in closely-glazed Cases*, by N. B. Ward, Esq., F.R.S. It is ten years since this book first appeared, and as the glass-cases then described are now everywhere in use, many are the readers who will peruse with pleasure Mr. Ward's treatise, instructive from the information it presents, and delightful from the spirit in which it is written. A tale which originally appeared in 'Blackwood's Magazine,' is reprinted in a volume, 'Katie Stewart,' a story of Scottish life, full of striking character, and agreeably written. To the Traveller's Library an acceptable addition is made in a reprint of two of Lord Jeffrey's contributions to the 'Edinburgh Review,' 'Swift and Richardson'; the former of which is one of the most celebrated articles in modern criticism. Thackeray, and the literary reviewer of 'The Times,' have recently shown up the baseness of Swift's character; but never did any historical personage receive such a scourging as in Jeffrey's review of his life by Sir Walter Scott. The genius and literary excellence of Swift, as also of Richardson the novelist, are discussed in Jeffrey's best style of acute and masterly criticism.

In Bohn's Classical Library one of the latest volumes contains a literal translation of *Sallust, Florus, and Velleius Paternus*, by the Rev. John Selby Watson, M.A., Head Master of the Proprietary Grammar-school, Stockwell. The text followed in 'Sallust' is chiefly that of Kritz, due regard being paid to the older text of Corstius, and the various readings of more recent German critics. With the 'Catilina' and 'The Jugurtha War,' the various fragments of 'Sallust' are given, and also the letters to Cesar, and other spurious pieces to which his name has been attached, and in which his style is imitated. In 'Florus' the text of Dukes is followed, and in 'Velleius Paternus,' that of Krause. Introductory historical notices, copious notes, and a good index, increase the value of the volume. Mr. Watson's

ber of the *Scottish Educational Journal* contains some valuable articles on educational subjects, and one amusing paper gives curious historical recollections of the parish schools of Scotland fifty years ago.

A series of *Letters from Ireland*, by Harriet Martineau, were originally published in the 'Daily News,' and now are presented in a volume which contains as much important information and shrewd reflection as to the real condition and prospects of that country as any work lately written on the subject. Miss Martineau is a valuable witness in all matters pertaining to political economy, and while describing the state of the country she does not omit to take into account the moral and social causes of Ireland's poverty and degradation.

A treatise on *Rheumatism, Gout, and Neuralgia*, by William Harvey, Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear, contains matter of direct importance to others than medical readers. The complaints of which the author treats often at first attract little attention, but are followed by series consequences to health, comfort, and life. A part of the work to which special notice is directed is on various forms of headache in connexion with deafness. Such complaints have often been too much left to mechanical and empiric treatment, and it is well that a surgeon of experience and a writer of scientific acquirements has recorded his views and practical advices on the subject. A former work by Mr. Harvey, on Deafness as connected with the Throat, is favourably known to the medical profession.

To 'Murray's Railway Reading' a capital addition is, *The Emigrant*, by Sir F. B. Head, Bart. The work originally appeared at a time when Canada occupied more public attention than now, and consisted in great part of political history in which the author was personally mixed up. Much of the importance of these questions has passed away, but the personal narrative and the amusing sketches of the country and its people, furnish matter of unabated interest, and this sixth edition of 'The Emigrant' is an acceptable volume for railway or other light reading. Sir Francis contrives, at the same time, in his lightest sketches to indoctrinate his reader with his own strong opinions on Canadian government and politics.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

All the Words of our Lord, 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Anderson's Notes of the Flood at the Red River, 2s. 6d.
 Armstrong's Introduction to English Composition, 2s.
 Alumni Westmonasteriensis, 8vo, cloth, £1 15s.
 Bowdler's (Miss) Sermons on Christianity, new ed., 3s. 6d.
 Carter's Pathology and Treatment of Hysteria, 8vo, cloth.
 Classified Index to the London Catalogue of Books, 15s.
 D'Aubigné's Reformation, new edition, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.
 De Porqué's Nouvelles Conversations Parisiennes, 3s. 6d.
 — New Parisian Grammar, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Easy Lessons in French Conversations.
 Egan's (J. C.) Sphyliothic Diseases, post 8vo, cloth, 9s.
 Essays Written during the Intervals of Business, 12mo, 5s.
 Family Medical Guide, by Medicus, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
 Flowers in their Seasons, No. 1, royal 8vo, sewed, 3s. 6d.
 Gaillard's (T.) History of the Reformation, 8vo, cloth, 12s.
 Greg's (Wm.) Essays on Political Science, 2 vols. royal 8vo.
 Hales's (S. J.) Woman's Record, royal 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.
 Hamilton's (Dr.) Friend of Moses, 8vo, cloth, 13s.
 Hein of Redclyffe, 2 vols. foolscap 8vo, cloth, 12s.
 Household Narrative, 1852, 8vo, cloth, 3s.
 Illustrated Educational Books, Arithmetic, 8vo, cloth, 2s.
 — Euclid, 8vo, cloth, 2s.
 — Geography, coloured, 3s.
 — Geometry, 8vo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 — Mechanics, 8vo, cloth, 2s.
 Influence and Evil Genius, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 James's Young Woman's Guide, 12mo, cloth, 4s.
 Johnston's Elementary School Atlas, 4to, 7s. 6d.
 Laurie's Interest Tables, 17th edition, 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.
 Mackie's Castles, Palaces, and Prisons of Queen Mary, 15s.
 Madden's (S. S.) Rambles in an Old City, p. 8vo, 10s. 6d.
 Mariotti's (L.) Historical Memoir of Fra Dolcino, 10s. 6d.
 Modern Geography Simplified, 2nd edition, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
 Parlour (The) Atlas of Modern Geography, 4to, boards, 8s.
 Railway Appliances, 12mo, cloth, reduced, 1s. 6d.
 Rawmley's (Rev. R. D.) Village Sermons, 12mo, 5s. 6d.
 Scott's Contents of the Catacombs of Rome, 8vo, 2s. 6d.
 — (W.) Life, by D. McLeod, post 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Spalding's History of English Literature, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
 Spring's (G.) Attraction of the Cross, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 — First Things, 2 vols. 8vo, cloth, 15s.
 Stevens's (J.) Lord our Shepherd, 5th edition, p. 8vo, 5s.
 Stocqueler's Wellington, Vol. 2, 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Thomas's Practice of Physic, new edition, 2 vols., £1 8s.
 Thomson's (W.) Outlines of Thought, 3rd edition, 7s. 6d.
 Trench's Lessons in Proverbs, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 3s.

Uncle Tom's Cabin, with Life of the Author, 8vo, 3s. 6d.
 Voyage and Venture, foolscap 8vo, cloth.
 Wide Wide World, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 — foolscap 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Wilson's (Bp.) Sacra Privata, 12mo, cloth, antique, 6s.
 Woodward's (B. B.) History of Wales, 2 vols., £1 5s.
 Wortley's (Lady E. S.) " &c.," post 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.

THE THEATRES AND THE PRESS.

As "great events from trivial causes spring," so there is some hope that a revival from the degradation into which the theatrical criticism of our journals has fallen may be brought about through so small a matter as a quarrel between Mr. Charles Mathews and the dramatic critic of the 'Morning Chronicle.' That functionary having abused Mr. Mathews' Christmas piece, Mr. Mathews, in a leaflet which is circulated with his playbills, publishes the critic's name, charges him with personal animosity, makes sundry pungent references to the state of the critic's exchequer, and announces that he has not only cut him off the free list, but forbidden his future entrance into the theatre upon any terms. The subject has attracted notice, and led to a protest on the part of some of the journals against the press-order system, and a vigorous call for its abolition. So far, we go heartily with these journals, but in arguing the question, we conceive that the present vicious state of things has been unjustly thrown too much on the managers and too little on the press. Were the press clear of blame, were its critics capable, and above the imputation of sinister motives, Mr. Mathews knows its power too well hastily to provoke its vengeance. But he knows that the reverse is the case; and has written recklessly, because he feels sure of his adversary's weakness. Into the merits of the particular quarrel we enter not. Had not Mr. Mathews' wrath blinded his judgment, he would have shaped his appeal to the public very differently. At the same time we are far from thinking, with some of our contemporaries, that he should have been silent under the provocation. On the contrary, if he found the columns of a leading journal used as the vehicle of wilful misrepresentation, we conceive he was right in making a direct appeal to the public, and exposing an abuse in which the public interests as well as his own are involved. Mr. Mathews, it is true, is wrong in assuming that a critic is only to use a free admission to his theatre on the implied condition that he is not to censure. He is not wrong, however, in depriving of the privilege a man who employs it as the means to gratify personal rancour and inflict pecuniary injury. We do not reserve seats at our table for men who traduce our cook and slander our wines. Mr. Mathews' case is a harder one; for the consequences of a few malicious words in an influential journal may be ruinous to a manager, who has expended large sums in getting up a piece on which he relies for carrying him successfully through many weeks of the season. It is quite time, indeed, that those who have this power in their hands should learn that they cannot abuse it with impunity or without the certainty of exposure. The press as a controlling power is good, but there are times when it needs to be itself controlled. We do not dwell, however, upon the individual instance, which is only of importance now as illustrating the evils of a pernicious system, alike debasing, we believe, to the press and to the manager.

The London journals claim a privilege of writing two orders nightly for every theatre or other public place of amusement. This privilege, originally granted to enable the principal papers to bring the performances under public notice by criticism, has for many years lost this character altogether. Every journal, no matter how limited its circulation or influence, claims the privilege. Thus the theatres are filled, and especially when paid-for seats are most in demand, with people, who get possession of these orders in all sorts of ways, sometimes as bribes for advertisements, sometimes by purchase at nominal prices. If the privilege is withheld, the manager is pretty sure to be bullied into submission by systematic abuse of his establishment. Of course this abuse is not chargeable against the conductors of the leading journals.

They are not, however, exempt from blame, inasmuch as the privilege granted to them for a purpose is constantly allowed to pass into the hands of subordinates or hangers on about their establishment, or transferred to friends who would otherwise most probably pay. What more common, especially in the country, than to hear people, who would scorn to accept gratis favours elsewhere, talking of going to the London theatres by press orders as a matter involving no sacrifice of caste or independence? The managers are thus seriously injured, and a kind of audience created, which can do no good as a check upon what passes upon the stage. Nor is this all. A privilege so cheap and so readily conceded ceases to be valued even by the press, and instead of Messrs. Oeacus, Minos, and Rhadamanthus taking their places modestly in the pit or public boxes as of old, they quite commonly demand to be accommodated with private boxes, which they fill with their friends, and managers submit to this further encroachment rather than run the risk of being slighted or cut up by these critical dignitaries. What has been the consequence? Managers have come to trust to courtesies and favours for securing laudatory notices of their pieces, and Messrs. Oeacus, Minos, and Rhadamanthus show their critical teeth upon occasions so rare as to excite surprise, and probably suspicion when they occur. Nor can we wonder at this. Where independence and mutual respect have been sacrificed, all the advantages of critical freedom speedily follow. What but an influence which will not bear scrutiny can explain the approval of bad pieces, the commendation of miserable acting, the mild mixture of sugar and acid, where defect is too glaring to be overlooked, which make the staple of theatrical criticism? How rarely is a principle appealed to—a law of criticism illustrated? We do not say that the system of press orders is solely to blame for this. Far from it. Private friendship, personal interest, and other causes, notoriously influence many of the so-called critics; and as notoriously the majority of them are neither by observation nor study fitted for the practice of perhaps the most difficult department of criticism connected with the fine arts. How constantly is it the case that, having read of the intelligence—nay, genius of this or that performer, we go to the theatre to be sickened by presumptuous incapacity; how often does the lauded drama turn out to be an imbroglio of unnatural characters, stale situations, and beggarly jokes! The consequence is, that the spectator, on the one hand, soon learns to spurn his guide, for he sees that he is prejudiced or blind; while the actor, on the other, has no critic to fear, for he has no critic to respect. He may know little of his art, but he knows enough of it to be sure that the critic knows less. He sees natural gifts, which have been elaborated by study and practice, passed over with neglect, while showy commonplace is extolled. The vulgar artifices of the stage are cried up as master-strokes of passion; flashy vulgarity holds the place of gaiety and grace; vehemence of power; and piling weakness of tenderness and pathos. Actors may not know themselves more than other men, but they are acute judges of their compeers. They therefore set no value whatever on the judgment of men who make such absurdly mistaken estimates; and if censured upon occasion, very naturally conclude the critic to be as much at fault in their own case as in that of others. So, too, with pieces. Our critics are too often either authors for the stage, or authors' friends, to be wholly impartial, and thus many a piece escapes damnation, which it would have been well both for manager and author to have had hooted from the stage. It is here that the system of orders works with peculiarly mischievous results. Observe a theatre on the first night of a new piece. The house is filled, but how much of the audience pays? Orders have been in demand, and the journals have used their privilege to the full. In the stalls we see Oeacus and his wife; in the private boxes sits Rhadamanthus amusing a select circle of female friends throughout the performance with his choicest wit,

whilst Minos displays the intellectual severity of his visage behind the crimson cushions of the opposite tier. Of all these and other unpaying men how many keep their judgments cool, or have the firmness to give them voice? Scene after scene goes off flatly and more flatly, the trashiest claptraps are played off to the delight of the gratuitous grocer or haberdasher in the upper boxes,—yet not a murmur of dissatisfaction is heard. Applause is got up at the end of the play, a performer or two is called for, and the farce ends with the author bowing from a private box. Those who have paid leave the theatre wearied and disappointed, and next morning read of the entire success of a new and exciting play, and the "creation" of some intensely interesting character by Mr. Growl the tragedian, or by the brilliant and gifted Miss Yatter. Under this vicious system, as every observer of our theatres must have seen with pain, dramas and actors have both degenerated for want of an independent, intelligent, outspoken tribunal to judge them. Mediocrity possesses the stage; ignorance, good-nature, and clemesynary spectators the boxes and pit; and men and women of sense keep to their own firesides, instead of spending time and money to be offended by coarseness or wearied by incapacity. If we are to retain a stage worthy of our country and its literature, something must be done to arrest this rapidly accelerating degeneracy; and one of the surest instruments will be the placing of our theatrical criticism on an entirely new basis. Let the journals henceforth entrust this important department only to persons qualified for the task, and aloof from all personal influence by either manager or actor. Let them renounce the right of *entrée* to the theatres, or at least let the right be strictly limited to the person or persons who are responsible for the dramatic department. But the wisdom of even this limited privilege is doubtful. A man is more likely to judge honestly of what he pays for. Managers will thus be at once relieved from a great burden, and compelled to rely, not upon purchased silence or applause, but upon merit in their company and in their pieces. Good actors will be encouraged, while careless and incompetent ones will be schooled out of their conceit, and have their true place assigned. That class of audience which used to be the stay and ornament of our theatres will know that they may safely follow the suggestions of their newspaper, and return to fill their old familiar places once more. We shall then have audiences who have opinions of their own, and do not scruple to make them heard. Thus by degrees a purer taste and higher standard will arise both behind the curtain and before it, and the ruin of our national drama, which at present is most imminent, may be ultimately arrested.

The subject is no new one with us, for so far back as April last ('L. G.' 1852, p. 342) we stated our opinion that the system of press orders should be abolished, and that any movement in that direction should have our warmest support. The *Times*, *Spectator*, *Examiner*, *Athenaeum*, and other respectable journals, now declare their concurrence in this opinion, and have agreed to act upon it. In this resolution we cordially join, and as cordially shall we hail an improvement in the tone and character of theatrical criticism.

We are glad to hear, from a correspondent in Paris, that steps are being taken also in the French metropolis to reform one of the abuses of their theatres, happily not current in our own:—

"An astounding event has plunged the theatrical critics at Paris into commotion: the Government has strictly forbidden the different theatres to employ *claqueurs*. The *claque*, as everyone knows, is a set of men admitted to the pit, either gratuitously or at reduced prices, for the express purpose of applauding. Forming a compact body, with hard hands and loud voices, they have always been able to overpower any disapprobation on the part of the public; whilst they have made themselves the boisterous exponents of any approval it may have felt. Indeed, of late years, the public, knowing their power, has seldom ventured to oppose them; and from fear of being confounded with them,

has got into the way of not applauding at all, even when admiring most highly. Engaged to applaud every piece and every performer however wretched, and thereby to impose on the public, the *claque* is an institution essentially immoral, and on that account there will be few who will not rejoice at its suppression. But as is the case with almost every abuse which has existed for any length of time, its sudden annihilation will not be without very serious inconvenience. In the first place, the Parisians will not get all at once into the way of applauding for themselves, and consequently performers and authors will feel the want of encouraging bravos, managers will doubt of the success of their pieces, and the performances will be as cold and regular as a philosophical lecture; in the second place, pecuniary arrangements, comprising in the aggregate a very considerable sum, entered into between the management and chief of the *claque*, between performers and the chief of the *claque*, between authors and the chief of the *claque*, and between the chief of the *claque* and his subordinates, will be brought abruptly to an end, or thrown into terrible confusion. If the Government had given formal notice that a few months hence the *claque* would be suppressed, no reasonable objection could perhaps have been made; but in putting it down with hot haste, without a single twenty-four hours' notice, it has created no little angry feeling."

G. A.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

SIR THOMAS MITCHELL, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, has just arrived from that colony with a diamond of good form, weighing three-quarters of a carat, found at the gold diggings at Ophir, west of Bathurst. Sir Thomas has also brought a sapphire from the same locality, and he has presented both specimens to the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn-street. The Australian diamond has been examined by some of the best judges in the metropolis, and pronounced to be a gem of the first water. While on the subject of the gold diggings we may quote the following from a letter addressed to us by Ronald C. Gunn, Esq., of Van Diemen's Land:—

"Launceston, Aug. 25, 1852.

"Our gold in the adjoining colonies, which is found more abundantly than ever, has so unsettled all our labouring population, that no amount of wages will induce a man to do any ordinary work. A loon I had at 12*l.* a year two or three years ago, I now pay 46*l.* a year, exclusive of unlimited rations, lodgings, &c. Another at 20*l.* a year I have had to increase to 60*l.* a year, and yet by digging they would make as much in a month. By our convicts alone we are in Van Diemen's Land saved, but they are very few in number unfortunately. They cannot leave the colony, and so this scanty supply we can retain. As I never employ less than fifty to seventy-five men, it presses heavily, and my time has been fully occupied in guarding against the evils arising from the loss of labour. There is gold in Van Diemen's Land, but as yet it has only been found in small quantities, and not so as to rival Victoria."

This lamenting over the paucity of convicts in Van Diemen's Land contrasts strangely with the complaints said to have been made some time ago against exporting so large a number of offenders to that colony.

The learned echoes of the Academy of Sciences at Paris have been startled from their grim proverty by a very unusual circumstance—a vehemently angry discussion between *savans*. In his eulogium of Gay Lussac, read in a recent sitting, M. Arago took occasion to complain of the changes which have just been made in the mathematical studies of the pupils of the Polytechnic School. M. Le Verrier, by whom these changes were devised, demanded in a very peremptory way that M. Arago should forthwith print his paper, in order that he might reply to the attack in detail. M. Arago answered that he should certainly not receive any orders from M. Le Verrier, and that he should only publish the paper at his own convenience. M. Le Verrier thereupon made some smarting comments on M. Arago, to which that gentleman somewhat contemptuously replied, and the matter dropped. In the following sitting, however, M. Faye, who is the man of all work of M. Le Verrier, renewed the attack on M. Arago. When

he had concluded, M. Liouville, the distinguished mathematician, rose, and after expressing great indignation at the ill feeling shown by M. Le Verrier and his friend to M. Arago, proceeded to tear to pieces the new mathematical programme. Amongst other things, he said that "it would be the derision of Europe;"—and he, with all the authority of age and learning, then gave M. Le Verrier a severe and passionate lecturing for his constant presumption to men who are much older, infinitely more learned, and vastly more distinguished than himself. Smarting under the castigation, M. Le Verrier replied; and then M. Arago, in a brief and cutting speech, supported all that M. Liouville had said as to the absurdity of the changes in the programme; they were, he declared, incomprehensible and *inimaginables*. At this M. Le Verrier became pale from wrath, and a scene of recrimination ensued, the like of which was, probably, never before witnessed in the Academy. We will take the liberty of saying that we cordially rejoice at seeing M. Le Verrier receive a lesson which he has long deserved. His presumptuous dogmatism has for a considerable period been annoying and offensive to his colleagues; and he really appears, from the testimony of learned mathematicians, to have botched most pitifully the new mathematical course of the Ecole Polytechnique.

The importance of instantaneous telegraphic communications in astronomical observations has not failed to attract the serious attention of scientific men; but it is perhaps surprising that measures have not yet been generally taken to procure them regularly. From a communication made, however, by M. Arago at the last sitting of the Academy of Sciences, it appears that they will shortly be established between the Observatories of Greenwich and Paris, and that will be the first step to their becoming universal. According to M. Arago, an exclusive telegraphic line between the two observatories would have been established long ago had it not been for difficulties encountered by Professor Airy. Whatever these difficulties may be, it seems to us that they ought not to exist, and might easily be removed. M. Arago, on the same occasion, announced that the Paris observatory has made arrangements for sending the exact Paris time by telegraph to Havre, Nantes, Bordeaux, and other ports, in order to enable the captains of vessels to regulate their chronometers. He also stated that the military authorities charged with the survey of France, which has been several years in progress, have found the electric telegraph exceedingly useful in giving the relative position of different places. Truly the French are much more prompt than we are in availing themselves of the results of British invention and enterprise.

In Mr. Murray's list of new works announced as nearly ready, we observe some of considerable importance. The 'History of the Captivity of Napoleon at St. Helena,' from the papers of the late Sir Hudson Lowe, and from official documents hitherto unpublished, will throw light upon many points in the latter years of the Emperor's life, and will, we doubt not, dispel some of the odium which has rested on the name of his "cruel gaoler," as the French usually call the English governor. The 'Journal of a Cruise among the Islands of the Western Pacific, in H.M.S. *Havannah*,' by John Elphinstone Erskine, R.N., will give information of value to ethnologists on the Feejee natives, and other Polynesian negro races. Mr. Layard's 'Nineveh and Babylon,' being the narrative of his second Assyrian expedition, and the second series of 'The Monuments of Nineveh' are looked for with interest by the many readers of his former work, which has so largely contributed to attract public attention to these Eastern antiquities. A collection of 'the Parliamentary Speeches of the Duke of Wellington' is to appear, uniform with the 'Wellington Despatches.' The eleventh volume of Mr. Grote's 'History of Greece' will contain the narrative of events during the reign of Philip of Macedon. A treatise on 'Crime, its Amount, Causes, and Remedies,' by Frederic Hill, Esq., late Inspector of Prisons, will be a valuable contribution to social statistics and political science in an important prac-

tical department. Mr. Hill's reports, when Inspector of Prisons in Scotland and the North of England, were much prized by the authorities, and by his suggestion various improvements have been introduced in the management of prisons and prisoners in this country. A popular work on the geology of the oldest stratified rocks and their fossils, is promised by Sir Roderick Murchison, under the title of 'Siluria.' Of books of travels, 'A Hunter's Solitary Rambles and Adventures in the Prairies,' by John Palliser, is a subject likely to present stirring incidents, and a narrative of 'Ten Months among the Tents of the Tusk,' by Lieut. W. H. Hooper, of H.M.S. *Plover*, will describe the Arctic boat expedition towards the Mackenzie river in search of Sir John Franklin. Dr. William Smith, to whose learned labours classical literature in this country is under so many obligations, is preparing a school history of Greece, with supplementary chapters on the literature, art, and domestic manners of the Greeks. By the same author a new Latin-English dictionary will shortly be published. Among miscellaneous books in the list may be named 'A History of Ancient Pottery,' by Samuel Bird, F.S.A. As Assistant-Keeper of the Antiquities in the British Museum, Mr. Bird has had ample opportunities of studying this subject, and we have no doubt that his work will be one of varied and curious research. Mr. George Campbell, the author of 'Modern India,' is following up that work by another, entitled, 'India as it May Be,' containing suggestions for the future government and policy of our Eastern empire. Of illustrated books, 'A Handbook of Architecture,' by James Fergusson, Esq., will give a popular account of the styles prevailing in all ages and countries of the world, with about a thousand woodcut illustrations. A new edition of the 'Arabian Nights' Entertainments,' with explanatory notes and six hundred woodcuts by Harvey, will be a popular volume.

Among Messrs. Longman's announcements we are glad to notice that the autobiography of B. R. Haydon, edited by Mr. Tom Taylor, is shortly to appear. An important work on national education by Sir J. K. Shuttleworth, Bart., is promised, under the title of 'Public Education, as affected by the Minutes of the Committee of the Privy Council from 1846 to 1852, with Suggestions as to Future Policy.'

Of other works announced as shortly to appear, the following are worthy of special note:—'The Private Journal of the Judge Advocate-General, attached to the Head Quarters of Lord Wellington during the Peninsular War, from 1812 to its close,' by F. S. Larpent; a selection from the works of Goethe, presenting his opinions on a variety of subjects; a selection from the writings of Mr. De Quincy, some of them before unpublished, revised and arranged by the author; 'First Steps in Ancient Geography, Physical and Classical,' by Professor Pillans of Edinburgh; 'Bases of Belief,' a work on the Christian evidences, by Edward Miall, M.P.

A circular has recently been issued from the Committee of Council on Education to the authorities of the several training schools under inspection, calling their attention to the steps which have been taken towards organizing local means of instruction in drawing, as part of elementary education. The circular proceeds to state that,—

"It has, however, occurred to my Lords of the Education Committee, and to their Lordships of the Board of Trade, that the various Training Schools for masters and mistresses, which are under inspection, are the points at which the most effectual impetus can be given to the promotion of the object in view. My Lords have felt sure that the authorities of the institutions in question appreciate the importance of this object, and will not have been slow to avail themselves of the means already at their disposal, for obtaining supplies of apparatus, and the services of competent instructors."

And an intention is announced of causing an inspection to take place into the system of drawing which may be pursued in the training schools.—

"My Lords would contemplate it as one of the results to follow in time from this step, that evidence of a certain proficiency in drawing should be afforded by each student on account of whose examination the Training School receives a grant, and their Lordships would expect each

Training School, desirous of receiving Queen's scholars, to make adequate provision for imparting this branch of instruction.

"In like manner my Lords might, sooner or later, regard it as improper to sanction the apprenticeship of pupil teachers to masters or mistresses who had neglected to profit by the means now about to be made generally available for acquiring a practical knowledge of elementary drawing.

"You will observe that elementary drawing is mentioned both in the minutes of 1846 (see page 2 of copy enclosed), and in the earliest document (see page 7 of copy enclosed) explanatory of them, as one of the subjects in which an apprentice ought to be instructed, and as one of the attainments to be expected in a certificated teacher.

"My Lords would, however, be most careful not to enforce any requirements of this nature until ample time had been allowed for making the necessary provision to meet them. They desire, however, emphatically to record their opinion that the power of accurately delineating the forms of objects ought no longer to be regarded as an accomplishment only, or the result of some rare natural aptitude, but as an essential part of education."

This circular was issued before the late change of ministry, but there can be no doubt that the intention will be fully carried out under the present Government.

In noticing last week a little book called 'A Peep into Uncle Tom's Cabin,' we stated that it had been selected from Mrs. Beecher Stowe's popular work by an American editor. We are informed by the publisher, Mr. Sampson Low, that the selection was made, at the recommendation and under the sanction of the authoress, by his daughter.

The Rev. Dr. Hawtrey has received the appointment of Provost of Eton College, in the place of the late Rev. Francis Hodgson. From Dr. Hawtrey's long experience as head master of the school, added to his personal accomplishments as a scholar, there is every confidence in his able and honourably filling the office of Provost, which has been held by eminent men in former times.

It is with much regret we have to announce the death, at the early age of 27, of Mr. Walter Scott Lockhart Scott, only son of Mr. Lockhart, and only surviving male descendant of the author of *Waverley*.

Mr. Thackeray is making the best of his time in the States. In addition to lecturing, he is said to be assisting the re-operators to collect into a series of volumes his numerous contributions to 'Punch.'

An *Illustrated News* has just been started in the United States under the proprietorship of Messrs. Barnum and Beach. The illustrations are all of American subjects.

Mr. Orfila, the distinguished (Spanish) physician and toxicologist of Paris, has given nearly 50000. to different institutions for the promotion of the different branches of medical and anatomical science.

M. Baudry, the Paris publisher, well known for his reprints of English authors, has just died.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN.—Jan. 11th.—Mr. Sharpe in the chair. A description was read of a cylinder in the possession of Mr. W. B. Barker, by Mr. Abingdon, who, as well as Colonel Rawlinson, considers it to have been a Public Signet. "On this cylinder is a majestic figure, clothed in a tunic and robe, richly embroidered and fringed, in the fashion of the kings of Assyria. The helmet upon his head is decorated with one pair of horns, the symbols of regal power. His body is furnished with four wings, indicating the extent of dominion to the four quarters of the heavens. I do not think that it is intended to represent any divinity. The supreme power of Omnipotence is always indicated by three pairs of horns, still less is it to be taken for any individual king. It seems expressive of the power and greatness of that centralised government which ruled over so great a portion of the habitable world. This view is supported by the two bulls, which symbolize the earth, with all its tribes of men. They are not fighting with the man, but he holds each of them by the fore-legs, while they stand in tame submission or willing allegiance to his authority. The bull is doubled, perhaps for the sake of symmetry, or rather to denote fulness, and universality of dominion. For further confirmation of this view, I refer to the Assyrian Standard, given by Botta, plate 159, also in Mr. Bonomi's book, p. 323. It is formed of a circle, representing the sphere of the heavens. In the upper portion is the Supreme Deity, having six horns, the attribute of Omnipotence, upon his head. He is discharging his arrows against the adversaries of the empire. The lower portion of the sphere shows the field, or platform, of human government, and the two bulls, as symbols, occupy the same. Here we have celestial and terrestrial things united in harmony. This is expressed by the *five lines*, waving down from heaven, convoluted, and complicated in their action upon earth, and reflected back again to heaven. Mundane affairs and the wealth of nations, according to the Chaldean philosophy, were influenced by the celestial influx, or astrological powers of the five wandering stars or planets. The Assyrian empire was thus most expressively represented by its standards, as being in alliance with heaven, and under its special protection. In this latter case there is no symbolic winged figure, as on the cylinder, because in the presence of the supreme power it would be out of place: earthly empire is sufficiently represented by the two bulls. I do not by these remarks pretend to show that the cylinder is properly *Assyrian*, but references to Assyrian antiquities are necessary to its explanation, though the cylinder itself may belong to another dynasty using the old-established and orthodox symbols. Colonel Rawlinson's view of the character of your cylinder is no doubt the true one, and I am glad that you have given it me. I may as well state what made me conjecture that it must have been a public signet. The richly robed figure is invested with those attributes which seem to indicate supreme authority. The head has the taurine horns, and the body four wings. The hands grasp the fore-legs of the two bulls, not in herculean conflict, but simply holding them, as indicating possession and authority over whatever they represent. Schlegel says that 'the Indian and Persian word *gau* with which the German word *kuh* (cow) perfectly agrees, quite coincides with the Greek word for earth, in the old Doric form of *va*; the Latin *boe*, and its inflections *boris* or *bove*, belongs to a whole family of Sanscrit words, such as *bhu*, *bhura*, *bhumi*, which signify the earth, earthly, or whatever is connected therewith. I therefore concluded that the symbols were expressive of imperial sovereignty over the earth, the fulness and universality of which is denoted by the ox being placed on each side, not in hostility, but quiet submission to the will of the principal figure.' 'On the Impression of a Cylinder on a red pot, in the possession of Mr. Ainsworth.' 'Here are five figures, which are, if I may use the word, symbolo-historical. First. A man in active combat with a bull, though he seems so conscious of his power that he does not seem to put forth all his strength. The man is nearly naked, he has only a very short covering round his loins. He has no regal attribute to mark his rank. I take him, therefore, to represent some territory or kingdom, and, probably, not any individual king. The bull is of the most ancient type. His skull and horns would stand well among the fossil mammalia of the Museum. This is also symbolical of a country which was subdued by the kingdom of the man. The bull is handled by the man after the orthodox and ancient way of representing that subject: he holds the beast by one of his fore-legs while with the other hand he grasps the base of one of his horns, and forces his head so as to break the animal's neck. Secondly. The next figure, I think, clearly shows that the man and bull represent two countries, one of which was subdued by and amalgamated with the other; for here we have both man and bull united in one figure, and which must needs be symbolical. The upper half of the figure is human, and the same man as seen before, except that he has horns upon his head, to show the ascendancy of his power in the subjugation of the bull, which now forms the lower half of the figure, showing that both countries are now united in one sovereignty. This united and compound power then pushes its conquests in another direction, to a country symbolised by the lion.'

The man-bull seizes the lion by the fore-legs, which he rends asunder. The lion in agony and helplessness throws his head back, and roars with rage, but in vain. Thirdly. There is another animal, the oryx, which appears to be a quiet spectator. It is the symbol of a country which was neutral or friendly while the man-power was carrying on his conquests. Or if the country so represented was an active and efficient auxiliary in war, the chief power has arrogated all the honours to itself. The further illustration of all this, from the records of history I will not attempt, though in my former notes I ventured to name Assyria, Mount Taurus, Bactria, and Arabia." 2. Mr. Sharpe exhibited lithographic drawings of the inscriptions on the great sarcophagus in the Louvre in Paris, which he is about to publish in his 'Egyptian Inscriptions.' He pointed out the conquest of the eternal serpent, the enemy of the human race; a sacrifice of men to Osiris; the processions of boats on the Nile, carrying out the statues of the gods; and the trial scene of mankind mounting the steps of the throne of the judge Osiris, who sits with a pair of scales before him to weigh their conduct. The sarcophagus Mr. Sharpe considered not more ancient than the Ptolemies. The writing was not, as in the ancient inscriptions, so that the reader met the points of the letters, but, as in other alphabets, he follows the backs of the characters. 3. Mr. W. H. Black read some 'Notes on the Restoration of Fertility to the soil of Palestine,' in which he attributed the desert appearance of the land, in general, to the neglect of cultivation for many ages, and not to natural causes, as erroneously supposed. Mr. Black briefly narrated the experiments made by Mr. Meshullan of Jerusalem, and the American Seventh-day Baptists, who have jointly established a small agricultural colony at Artos, near Bethlehem, with great success. He also read several extracts from their correspondence, and confirmed the fact by the testimony of individuals who have recently visited that interesting settlement, that within the past year they have raised successive crops of corn (the wheat growing as high as a tall man), besides an abundance of fruit and vegetables, both native and exotic. This paper was followed by a conversation, in which the possibility of recovering the far-famed fertility of Palestine was confirmed by Mr. Bonomi, and by Risk Allah Effendi, from their personal knowledge of the country. Mr. Black also presented to the Society a copy of an address just printed by a recently-formed, "Association for encouraging Jewish Settlements in Palestine," which contains many important facts and suggestions on the same subject.

ROYAL ASIATIC.—Dec. 18th.—Prof. H. H. Wilson in the chair. Extracts were read from a paper by J. R. Logan, Esq., 'On the Traces of an Ethnic Connexion between the Basin of the Ganges and the Indian Archipelago, before the advance of the Hindus into the former.' In a letter which was also read, Mr. Logan stated that he had sent this paper on the 1st July, 1850, to Prof. Jamieson of Edinburgh, for the purpose of having it read at the meeting of the British Association there, but that it did not reach Scotland until after the close of the proceedings. It was subsequently read at a meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a notice of it was printed in the 'Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal.' A considerable portion of the first division of the paper, the only portion sent to the Society, comprised a statement of Mr. Logan's views on the transition of monosyllabic to dissyllabic languages; and he was desirous of having this division laid before the Society in reference to another paper on the same subject, by Mr. Laidly, read before the Society on the 3rd July last. ('L. G.' 1852, p. 611.) In the section read, which has more immediate reference to this passage from monosyllabic to dissyllabic tongues, Mr. Logan gives his views of the causes which lead to that transition. He considers that although monosyllabic languages may be rich and elaborate in forms and powers, and the people who speak them be a civilized community, they must, from the tonic impediment to the union of words, continue

to be cumbrous and crude, and incapable of expressing the more subtle and complex phenomena of the intellect; that when this impediment is removed, they will become plastic, fluent, and capable of expressing every modification of idea, and every variety of conception. Among other results pointed out by him as flowing from this fact, he observes that monosyllabic languages in the usage of advanced people, become rich in their glossaries, from the necessity of inventing a new term for every modification of an idea; and that thus, when terms nearly synonymous will abound, it is practically found convenient to use such terms in couples, both for greater expression, and to avoid the embarrassment arising from the number of ideas expressed by the same sound; and such couples of words are given in Chinese grammars, among others, to be committed to memory by learners. He also observes that all relations between one idea and another being necessarily expressed by separate words, and these words being fewer, and of more frequent recurrence than substantive terms, they naturally become subservient to those terms, and, losing their original separateness, become mere accessories, case-forms, number-forms, and other distinctive adjuncts, such as make one word an adverb, another a verb, &c., until the language loses its concrete terms, and becomes dissyllabic. He finds in the Siamese language an observable example of his meaning. This language has many of its monosyllables terminating in consonants; and the after-breathing of these consonants is sometimes so fully vocalized as to form a new syllable, by which a phonetic tendency is developed, fatal to the preservation of the monosyllabic tonic character. When two words in this language are used, as is commonly the case in the tonic languages, to express one idea, the second receives a longer sound than the first; the voice rests upon it; and in rapid speaking, it even receives a slight accent, showing that it is giving way to the dissyllabic tendency. Mr. Logan thus considers the Siamese language as being of extreme interest in illustrating the operation of the natural laws which convert monosyllabic into dissyllabic tongues. The process has gone further with other languages in the same quarter of the globe. In the Burmese the tones are few, and the dissyllabic tendency more pronounced. In the Tibetan, tones are quite lost; but the moveable accent by which the chief word unites the accessories to itself has not yet been developed. Mr. Logan is of opinion that, from the numerical fewness of the facts connected with the structure or forms of languages, and the very great number of words, the value of glossarial resemblances is far greater than that of grammatical evidence in tracing the history or connexion of separate tribes of men. He believes, therefore, that when structure has detected a few great developments, it will afford us afterwards but little aid in ethnology. He thinks that the first and highest place in ethnic philology belongs to phonology,—too much neglected in all our linguistic investigations, and very generally wholly unnoticed. The other elements of speech exist equally for crude, phonetic languages, like the Chinese, and for the highly developed and harmonious Indo-Germanic tongues, which reflect, though perhaps faintly, the motion of the mind itself. But the marked difference of the phonic system gives a distinctive value to this branch of philology which is possessed by no other. At this meeting an announcement was made that Major-General J. Briggs has presented to the Society's library a valuable collection of Oriental MSS., and the special thanks of the Society were voted to General Briggs for his liberality.

GEOLOGICAL.—Jan. 5th.—W. Hopkins, Esq., President, in the Chair. E. J. Lowe, Esq., and T. A. Redwin, Esq., were elected fellows. The following communications were read:—1. 'On the Geology of Labuan,' by — Motley, Esq. The island of Labuan is composed of alternating beds of clay and sandstone, the former sometimes containing ironstone. Coal seams occur in several places in these beds. The main seam averages

about eleven feet in thickness. A large quantity of fossil resin is sometimes found in the coal. One of the clay beds associated with the coal contains casts of bivalve shells resembling the fresh-water *Unio*; and some of the shells and sandstones abound with bivalve and univalve marine shells, the species of which, however, cannot well be determined, on account of their bad state of preservation. Many of the beds are rich in remains of plants, and the coal itself contains remains of very large trees. The majority of these fossil shells and vegetables appear to belong to existing forms. Both in the sandstone, and even in the coal itself, rolled fragments of an older coal are frequently met with, showing that the coal-field has been formed in part from the debris of a more ancient one. Similar coal-beds exist also on the coast of Borneo, as far north as Menkalong. The granitic (?) range, reaching from Keene Baloo southwards, is, in the author's opinion, the eastern boundary of this extensive coal-field. On the south, the coal seams are found around Bruni, and to the south of that place. The author considers it probable that this vast coal-field has been formed in the estuary of some great river or system of rivers, such as may be said now to exist almost all along the western coast of Borneo, draining some ancient continent to the northward; occasional floods having brought the material for the pebble beds and conglomerates, with which the coals, shells, and sandstones are frequently interstratified. 2. 'On the Discovery of Remains of Insects in the Tertiary Clays, and the Kimmeridge Clay of Dorsetshire,' by the Rev. Mr. Brodie, F.G.S. The purport of this communication was to notice that in the sand and clay at Corfe, Dorsetshire, belonging to the "Bagshot series," which for some time have been known to contain an extensive and interesting flora, a few small elytra of coleopterous insects (of the *Curculionidae* and *Buprestidae* families) have lately been discovered by W. R. Brodie, Esq. The Rev. P. B. Brodie, also, in breaking up some septaria in dark shale, low down in the Kimmeridge clay, (not far above its junction with the Portland sand,) in Ringstead Bay, near Weymouth, discovered a striated elytron of a small beetle associated with ammonites, *Lingula*, *Arca*, and other shells. 3. In a letter addressed to Sir R. I. Murchison, F.G.S., the Right Hon. — Tuffnell announced the discovery of some fossil plants—somewhat resembling calamites in general appearance—in the old red sandstone of the Shetlands. The specimens were obtained from the South Ness Quarry, about a quarter of a mile from the Tower of Lerwick, and, at Mr. Tuffnell's request, were presented to the Society.

R. S. OF LITERATURE.—Jan. 12th.—Sir John Doratt, V.P., in the chair. Mr. Watkins Lloyd read a paper on 'Some Astronomical Epochs and Phenomena in connexion with the plan or design of the Pyramids,' in which he pointed out the interest which had been shown from the earliest ages to the present time in the question, whether the sides of the pyramids were, for the most part, built at an angle of inclination with the horizon, to which it was possible to give any distinct astronomical meaning? Mr. Lloyd stated that it was natural to expect in a country, where so large a portion of the ancient religion had to do with the sun, that the position and inclination of the sides of the pyramids would, in some way, be connected with that luminary; and that this presumption is borne out by the position of the Sphinx, which was connected architecturally with the pyramids, and, like them, faces due east. Mr. Lloyd, after referring succinctly to the views of Sir John Herschel and M. Biot, stated that the difference of the angles of inclination of the twelve principal pyramids varied only from $51^{\circ} 10'$ to $52^{\circ} 32'$ —little more than one-third of a degree—and gave it as his opinion that such an uniformity of construction could not be the result of accident. In his belief, the intention of the builders of these vast structures, beside their primary object, as tombs, was that they should indicate the period of the equinoxes and solstices. That, even now, after allowing for some change which has taken place in the obliquity of the

ecliptic since these buildings were first raised, the inclination of the sides of the great pyramid does this, appears to be true from the calculations which Mr. Lloyd furnished, and which rendered his paper a valuable exponent of a curious and hitherto unsolved problem.

CIVIL ENGINEERS.—*Jan. 11th.*—James Meadows Rendel, Esq., President, in the chair. The following candidates were elected:—Mr. S. C. Court, as a Member; and Messrs. E. Bagot, J. Hodgson, and A. Sinclair, as Associates. The Paper read was “On the Nature and Properties of Timber, with notices of several methods, now in use, for its preservation from decay,” by Mr. Henry Potter Burt. The author first examined the different species of home and foreign-grown timber, their various properties, uses, tendencies to decay under certain circumstances, the most apparent causes of dry rot, the formation of fungi, and the action of wet and of heat; noticing the extraordinary duration of specimens of timber found in Egypt, in the ruins of Nineveh, and in the more recent monastic and castellated edifices of this country. The chemical constitution of wood was examined, in order to trace the origin of decay, and to lead to the consideration of the most efficient means of arresting it. The necessity for some efficacious and yet moderately cheap system of preserving timber was insisted on, from the great demand for railway and other engineering works, not only in Europe, but even in the East Indies; where it was remarkable, that the wood which would resist the climate and the ravages of the white ant, was only to be found at such distances inland, that the expense of carriage, in a country devoid of good means of communication, rendered it more economical to buy fir timber in the north of Europe, convert to the required dimensions, and saturate it with creosote in England, and convey it by sea to India, for the use of the railway now in course of construction in that country. The earliest records of preserving animal and vegetable substances were traced back to the Egyptians, whose mummies were embalmed by being boiled in pitch, found floating in the lakes; the linen and the timber so preserved gave the first idea for adapting the process to the wants of the present period, and several of the patents granted were enumerated and commented on, the greatest space being devoted to those of Kyan, for chloride of mercury; Burnett, for chloride of zinc; Margary, for acetate or sulphate of copper; Payne, for the use of two solutions in succession, mutually decomposing each other, and forming an insoluble substance in the pores of the wood; and Bethell, for creosote, or oil of coal-tar, which last had, by its extensive employment in harbour, railway, and other engineering works, proved that, when properly executed, the preservation of the timber from decay and from the ravages of insects might be considered complete. The paper was illustrated by a series of models and drawings, showing the various apparatus for the several processes, enlarged diagrams of microscopic views of sections of several kinds of timber, both in the natural state and after being creosoted; experiments on the degrees of saturation by the process, and on the transverse strength of the timber; with the results of the improvements introduced into the system by the author, whose experience had been very extensive.

MICROSCOPICAL.—*Dec. 30th.*—G. Jackson, Esq. in the chair. Messrs. Highley, Barlow, W. Adams, W. Crozier, and E. Truman, and Prof. Pohl of Vienna, were elected members.—A paper was read by Mr. Bush ‘On the Structure of the Starch Granule,’ in which he pointed out that the lamination usually observed in starch grains disappeared under the influence of heat, sulphuric acid, and other re-agents. When thus treated the granule enlarges, and presents the appearance of an irregular compressed bag or vesicle. This vesicle did not present a membrane independent of the starch—as had been stated by some writers,—but assumed an appearance which justified the view originally taken of the starch granule by Leuwen-

hoek.—Mr. C. Brook exhibited a moveable arm for the compound microscope, by which object-glasses of different focal distance might be employed without having recourse to the present method of screwing and unscrewing. He also exhibited a portable stand which could be carried in the pocket, and which was adapted for use with a pocket lens.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—*Jan. 10th.*—Mr. D. Moccatta, V.P., in the chair. After the usual formalities, and the announcement of various donations of books and periodicals, Mr. Donaldson, V.P., read a paper on Byzantine architecture in France, in which he pointed out the analogy existing between the churches of the ancient Greek empire and those which were built in France in the 11th and 12th centuries, and showed that that analogy, though not complete in all its details, was sufficiently so to authorise the classifying them under one modified name, and attributing to them one common type. He instanced various churches in the heart of the central provinces of France, which would come under the term Gallo-Byzantine, explaining what were their characteristics, and how the Byzantine element was developed or modified in them. Mr. Donaldson having concluded his remarks, a conversation arose upon the topic under discussion, in which Dr. Henzlmann, Mr. Inman, Mr. G. G. Scott, Mr. Papworth, Mr. Alfred Bailey, and Mr. Billing took part. Thanks were then voted to Mr. Donaldson, and some new members elected.

GRAPHIC.—*Jan. 12th.*—A water-colour drawing, by Turner, of large dimensions, representing Mont Blanc, from the Vale of Aosta, was exhibited, and a fine oil painting of rural scenery, by Creswick. A portfolio of sketches, in water colours, of English scenery, embracing Stratford-on-Avon, and the neighbourhood connected with Shakespeare's history, by Mr. Duncan, were much admired; as was also a plaster cast of an equestrian statue, by Foley, of Lord Hardinge, about to be erected in Calcutta. Mr. Fripp's beautiful views of scenery in Scotland attracted an unusual degree of attention; and two of Stothard's finished drawings were again exhibited. An unfinished miniature of a lady, by Sir W. Ross, displayed a wonderful degree of minute and delicate painting; and Mr. Weigall's half-length statue of the Duke of Wellington, remarkable for its accurate portraiture, was the subject of much discussion.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Statistical, 8 p.m.—(William Farr, Esq., on the Income Tax.)
 — Chemical, 8 p.m.
 — London Institution, 7 p.m.—(Rev. Wm. Scoresby, F.R.S., on Whale Fishery.)
 — School of Mines.—(Mechanics, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)

Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Thomas Warton Jones, Esq., F.R.S., on Animal Physiology.)
 — Linnean, 8 p.m.
 — Horticultural, 2 p.m.—(The best collection of Hardy Winter Flowering Plants (cut flowers admissible), English Grapes, and the best and most varied Salad.)
 — Russell Institution, 8 p.m.—(C. R. Weld, on the recent Arctic Searching Expeditions.)
 — Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Mr. J. Barrett, on the Construction of Fire-proof Buildings.)
 — Pathological, 8 p.m.
 — School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)

Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.
 — Geological, 8 p.m.—(1. Sir C. Lyell, V.P.G.S., and J. W. Dawson, Esq., on the Remains of Reptiles and a Land Shell, discovered in the Interior of an Erect Fossil Tree in the Coal Measures of Nova Scotia; 2. Professor J. Wyman, on the Remains of the Batrachian Reptiles found in Nova Scotia by Sir C. Lyell and Mr. Dawson—with notes on the same by Prof. Owen, F.G.S.; 3. Professor Owen, F.R.S. &c., notice of a Batrachoid Fossil from British Coal-Shell, in the Museum of the Earl of Enniskillen, F.R.S.)
 — London Institution, 7 p.m.—(Conversazione.)
 — School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Mechanics, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)

Thursday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(John Phillips, Esq., F.R.S., on the General Principles of Geology.)
 — Royal, 8 p.m.
 — Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
 — Harveian, 8 p.m.

Thursday.—School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)
Friday.—Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Professor Faraday, Observations on the Magnetic Force.)
 — School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Mechanics, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)
Saturday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Alexander W. Williamson, Ph.D., on the Philosophy of Chemistry.)
 — Medical, 8 p.m.
 — Royal Botanic, 4 p.m.

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY.

The practice of Photography will doubtless be much assisted in its onward progress by the Exhibition now open at the rooms of the Society of Arts, John-street, Adelphi. The number of visitors it has attracted attest the interest of the public; and an opportunity is given, which will, we hope, from time to time be repeated, of comparing and examining specimens, and of ascertaining the actual condition of the art. Twelve years ago photography may be said to have had no existence but in theory. *Le premier Livre imprimé par le Soleil*, dated 1840, exhibited by Captain Ibbetson, now lies on the table of the Society—an interesting monument of its earliest dawn, and test of its subsequent advance. How wide the interval between these first simple outlines, produced by the mere obstruction of rays falling on the paper by the object exposed—the sprig or flower, the form of which was to be traced, and the extensive bird's-eye views, and renderings of texture and material, which some of these subjects present. Great, however, as have been its strides, photography advances by degrees only, and gives evident signs of the imperfections attendant on a young and nascent art; whilst labouring under evident imperfections, it makes strong appeals to the enterprise and ingenuity of the spectator, to extend its powers and correct its failures. Scarcely in a single instance do we find that absolute perfection, which is needed in order to give the eye perfect pleasure, unless it be in some of the portraits, and a few of the well-chosen architectural subjects. Nor is the Exhibition without its faults, both of arrangement and subject. The examples might have been disposed upon some clear principle of order, which would seem not to be the case at present; and illustrations of the method and stages of the process would not have been out of place. Specimens of the paper and materials, of the various cameras employed, of some plates of albuminized glass, collodion, waxed paper, and of a ‘traveller's camera,’ would have added to the interest, and excited further invention and improvement. We have also looked in vain for examples of Mr. Talbot's images of bodies in motion, or ‘Amphytypes,’ as he proposed calling them, (‘L. G.’, 1852, p. 42,) or of M. Niepce de St. Victor's discovery for colouring photographs, of which little has been heard since its first announcement. Still, hurried and imperfect as it is, the collection must be looked upon as a very important and valuable suggestion, and as reflecting the greatest credit on the gentlemen who originated it, Messrs. Cundall and Delamotte. The pictures exhibited, amounting to the number of 779 in all, arrange themselves into five, or more strictly six, classes. Positive pictures taken on paper from negatives on photographic paper are the most numerous, being about 320 altogether, and by about 32 different operators, only four of whom seem to be foreigners. Our own countrymen in this branch include Mr. H. F. Talbot, who sends six pictures, besides a book of early specimens from the year 1842 to 1846, which possesses a peculiar interest; Mr. H. Owen, who has studied a great many objects of ornament, rich texture, and fine manufacture, as housings, porcelain, armour, and statuary; Messrs. Fry, Sherlock, G. Barker, B. B. Turner, and others. Sir W. Newton has sent also several successful views from the Isle of Wight. The foreigners are MM. Pretsch, Du Camp, Flacheron, and Lodoisk.

The second class in point of extent are those designated Collodion in the catalogue, and though all bearing the same name, are really of two different kinds—viz., pictures on paper taken from

negatives on collodion, and positive pictures taken with collodion, on glass the latter being, as our readers are aware, of recent invention, and one of the most interesting features of the Exhibition. Altogether they make up a list of 220 subjects nearly, by at least 34 different artists.

The third class, that of pictures from negatives on waxed paper, amounts to about 150, distributed among upwards of 17 artists, three only being apparently English, the rest chiefly French.

Fourthly, appears the list of paper pictures from negatives on albuminized glass, about 80 in number, by six exhibitors, two apparently English, the rest foreign.

Lastly, nine specimens taken from negatives on albuminized paper have been sent by Mr. T. M. Goodeve.

Amongst so large a collection, so various in subject, and so indiscriminately placed, it is difficult to select those most worthy of notice, and to say which have been most successful. Of the paper subjects, M. Pretsch's *Views of Vienna* (98, 99, 626, 698, 700) attract immediate attention from their size, their clearness, and the excellent rendering of distant as well as near objects, but in colour they are not always pleasing. *St. Stephen's, at Vienna* (774), exhibits one of the most exquisite structures in the world with perfect success. Mr. Fox Talbot's *Haystack* (136) is a curious experiment, which furnishes to the artist hints as to delineation, and is unusually instructive. *Queen's College, Oxford* (188), and *King's, Cambridge* (208), are also clear and bright, though the architectural distances are not perfect. Mr. Owen's subjects of still life we have already mentioned; the *Embroidered Saddle* (47 and 72) is an excellent specimen of these attempts, and in the *Street Scene at Bristol* (263), and *In Bristol* (277), the beautiful artistic effect and rich tone are peculiarly striking. Several interiors by the same extensive exhibitor are interesting experiments. Mr. Buckle's views, having great variety, are all of distinguished excellence. *The Lock* (258) is remarkable for its good representation of water, and the *Quadrangle of Arundel Castle* (246) for its fine rich tone. Mr. B. B. Turner's pictures are all of striking subjects, and a *Group of Scotch Firs* (190) is remarkably successful, with which may be compared a *Group of Italian Pines* (534), by Mr. W. Sherlock, also remarkably fine. The *Photographic Truth* (193) will strike every eye, from the peculiar circumstance that the reflections of the still, glassy water actually give stronger images than the objects themselves. Mr. Sherlock's *Study of an Oak* (105) is more to be noticed for its subject than its perfect representation; the same gentleman's *Water Mill* (115) curiously illustrates the failure of the process in representing falling water; whilst other subjects, strictly of landscape character (431 to 433), show great proficiency. The trunk of a tree in Mr. G. Shaw's so-called *Mill Stream* (110), and another similar object at the end of the room, are very complete both in selection and execution. The effect of Sir W. Newton's brilliant views is almost invariably owing to strong passages of sunlight and shade, and therefore they do not exhibit much tone; whilst Mr. Stewart's, in the Pyrenees, derive a particular interest from their process, being taken in conformity with the method suggested by Prof. Regnault, that of saturating the photographic paper by means of the air-pump. Several other excellent views have been sent by Messrs. Rosling, Barker, Bingham, and others; and Du Camp's Eastern and Egyptian scenery is generally full and masterly. The *View of the Second Cataract of the Nile* (118) is again a curious instance of the effect produced by running water. The *Coliseum at Rome* (501), by F. Flacheron, is also a well-chosen architectural study.

Turning next to the Collodion pictures; of those on paper, Mr. Delamotte's contribution is one of the largest; and being chiefly of architectural subjects, it comprises objects among the most suitable for the camera, and accordingly most successful. The *Croxteth Abbey* (100), rather deficient and weak, is amply compensated for by *Croxteth Abbey, Boy in the Arch* (166), one of the finest and most artistic

studies in the collection. The *Great Exhibition* (86) is somewhat indistinct; but the same subject (238), having to deal with the difficulties of perspective, is very remarkable, and to the student of drawing presents valuable hints. Mr. E. Constant's views in Rome and Italy are among the finest in this branch, perhaps aided in his effects by the advantages of the increased light and drier air to be met with in this southern latitude. In this class also are to be enumerated the Count de Montizon's figures of animals in the Zoological Gardens, of considerable success, the nature of the subject being taken into account. Here also the portraits abound, Mr. Berger taking the lead, 251 and 283 being both fine examples. Messrs. Barker, Horne, Reeves, and Contencin and Co., are also to be observed. Family groups are not unfrequent; where the anxiety of the sitter to catch a transient ray from the goddess of beauty, by smiling most imploringly at the truth-telling camera, but often in vain—is frequently amusingly apparent. That the photographic likeness is even more morally than physically faithful, and penetrating all conventionalities and disguises, that it lights up the secret chambers and hidden depths of character, is a fancy which has been suggested by the ingenious author of 'The House with the Seven Gables,' and may serve still further to amuse the speculative visitor. The more painful side of the question as a physiognomical study is presented in the collections of *Types of Insanity* (189 and 197), judiciously chosen and artistically represented by Dr. Darling. These are in the second division of collodion pictures taken positively on glass, as we mentioned above. In this branch Mr. T. Sims occupies the first rank. His *Portrait of a Lady* (not numbered) lying on the table, attracts immediate attention; of the rest, numbers 347, 333) and 572 are among the most successful. Dr. Darling's heads have the disadvantage of browner tone, (which is perhaps not unsuited to the subject nevertheless), and want the same variety of light and shade. Messrs. Archer, Player, and Weddell are among the largest remaining contributors in this style.

Waxed paper seems, as we have said, to have been almost wholly confined to the French, the architectural subjects by M. E. Becquerel being by far the most prominent in number and effect. Nothing can exceed the powerful delineation to be found in these fine masses of light and shade, the whole of which, though not equally happy, yet show taste in the selection and character in the execution. *The Church of St. Trophime, at Arles* (451), is not surpassed for brilliancy and firmness. The dark shadows complained of in the use of waxed paper serve to heighten the architectural effect of massive shade, and we do not share in the objections of those who complain that details are lost in these black recesses. They most agreeably relieve the eye from mere ornamental display, and forcibly strike the imagination. The same subject (85) has the advantage of some beautiful curve lines, which it illuminates with peculiar effect. The *Chartres Cathedrals* (75, 78, 403, and 419), follow closely on these in excellence. Mr. R. Fenton is next in point of number, contributing 37 pictures. These are worthy of wider scenes, involving more tints, greater variety, and consequently requiring more judgment in choosing a well-toned subject. Abruptness of shadow and harshness being the faults incidental to the method are particularly to be avoided. A subject like that of the *Bas-relief from the Arc de Triomphe* (291), by Lodoisk, stands out with astonishing prominence, and the *Mansion at Venice* (294), by Flacheron, is a successful scene. *The Leaning Tower at Pisa* (710), by Biot, is equally distinct; and M. E. M. Regnault's *Views in France* (675 to 683) are also worthy of notice, though occasionally imperfect.

The pictures from albuminized glass, by M. Ferrier, are more than the rest of the contributions of this class taken together, consisting of numerous statues, machinery, and objects of exhibition—experiments upon texture and colour which well deserve study, as in many instances the approxi-

mation to the peculiar textures of bronze, marble, and metal, have been equally beautiful and striking. The most vivid picture in this class in the room, however, is Mr. Martens's *The Louvre* (117), which is unsurpassed for clear cut brilliancy and metallic sharpness. This view, however, is of imperfect excellence, and fades away towards the left into indistinctness. Messrs. Ross and Thompson exhibit also a series of views near Edinburgh by this process, clear in delineation, but dark in tone.

Mr. Goodeve's pictures on albuminized paper are chiefly of statuary, which is well represented by the process.

The selection of objects from so extensive a collection must necessarily be a slight one, where so many have reached nearly the same point of excellence, and the distinctions between the compared merits of the different processes are so fine. Much might also be said of the relations of photography upon painting and drawing, as its effects and tendencies are already making themselves perceived; but the prejudice with which the method was viewed by artists would seem to be rapidly fading away, as its true position is not yet fully ascertained. That photography can ever usurp the sphere of art, properly so called, we think no one can now imagine. Meanwhile its processes are on the road to perfection, to which the present Exhibition will be a means of accelerating its hitherto tardy course.

The Catalogue is accompanied by a preface, detailing briefly the present condition and prospects of the art, abridged from a paper read by Mr. Roger Fenton, before the Society of Arts, on 22nd December last. The Exhibition will continue open until the 29th January.

Der Tod als Erwürger, and Der Tod als Freund.

—These are two remarkable productions of the school of wood-engraving at Dresden. The first represents Death as enemy or destroyer, fiddling and capering in a hall of maskers, whose dead bodies strew the floor, while the musicians are rushing from the scene by a side door, with every manifestation of horror and dismay. This subject (representing a scene on the breaking out of the cholera in Paris in 1831) is too repulsive to be popular; but there is much of the feeling of true poetry in the companion print, which represents the interior of a mediæval bell-tower. The aged sexton has risen to ring *prime* to the citizens below, over whose dwellings the sun is rising in glorious effulgence; an early bird, perched on the parapet without, looks in, as if inquiring for the wonted dole of crumbs from the old man's trencher, but he is no longer able to dispense them. Sunken in a large chair, his eyes fixed and lustreless, he regards Death, habited as a wandering friar, tolling his knell. The drawing of the figure of the king of terrors is exceedingly fine, and the pose of the skeleton limbs, enveloped in the coarse garments of the ecclesiastic, excellent; the pencil of Dürer or Burgmair, and the poetry of Uhland, are united in this very interesting print.

A sale of the private collection of pictures of the late king Louis Philippe took place in Paris on Monday last. The pictures, sixty-eight in number, were more or less damaged,—having been cut with bayonets or swords when the mob invaded the Palais Royal, in the Revolution of February, 1848. The prices obtained were consequently very small; the largest was 622*l.* for a charming composition of Leopold Robert, representing a Neopolitan woman bewailing the destruction of her cottage by an earthquake. A sea view by Poitevin fetched 52*l.*; and an episode of the Revolution of 1830, by Cogniet, 48*l.* Nearly all the works offered were by contemporary French artists.

Horace Vernet has sold off all the works and sketches he had on hand, and has gone to reside in Algeria. He, too, has had the misfortune—or rather the honour—to incur the displeasure of "His Imperial Majesty the Emperor."

MUSIC.

VARIOUS announcements indicate the speedy opening of the musical season in the metropolis. Already the sacred musical societies at Exeter Hall are in full performance, although little of novelty or importance has hitherto called for special notice. Madame Fiorentini, at the Sacred Harmonic Society, has proved a valuable acquisition, and one or two other new singers have creditably appeared in less important parts. We understand that rehearsals of the Society are, during the remainder of the season, to take place on Fridays, and in the large instead of the small room at Exeter Hall. Madame Pleyel, whose talents as a pianist were established high in public estimation last season, announces a concert on Monday evening, the 31st January, at the Hanover-square Rooms, on her return to England. Madame Pleyel will be assisted by distinguished vocalists and instrumentalists, by Madame Fiorentini, Miss Alleyne, Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam, and Mr. Weiss, and by Messrs. Piatti and Sainton; Mr. Frank Mori, conductor.

The English Glee and Madrigal Union, consisting of Mrs. Endersohn, Miss M. Williams, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Hobbs, and Mr. H. Phillips, have announced a series of six concerts at Willis's Rooms, to commence on the 7th of February, and continued on successive Monday evenings.

The Italian Theatre at Paris has reproduced *Ernani*, but in order to avoid the payment of *droits d'auteur* to Victor Hugo for the libretto, which is taken from his play of that name, it has changed the title to *Il Proscrito*, the scene to Venice, and the names and titles of the personages: it has also, of course, altered the words. But the essential thing of all, the music, remains untouched. The merits and defects of this opera, one of the best of Verdi, are too well known to need description. It will therefore suffice to say that Mlle. Cruvelli, who performed the principal part, sang and played with remarkable power. She gave in particular the famous *cavatina* and the splendid trio in the third act with tragic energy, rarely equalled on the Italian stage. Belletti was excellent as *Sylva*; and Calzolari, the tenor, sang with striking grace and purity. A *débutant* baritone, Arnaud, made a hit, and the choruses were admirably just. The performance altogether has thus far been the most successful of the season.

At the Grand Opera, *Lucie de Lammermoor* has been renewed, with Roger, Massol, Mme. Laborde, and Bremond, in the chief characters. Roger distinguished himself highly as *Edgar*; he sang alternately with a melancholy and tender expression, and with profound passion.

Adolphe Adam's popular *Roi d'Yvetot*, from Brângier's famous song, had been brought out at the Théâtre Lyrique with success.

Italian troupes are now performing at Athens and Constantinople.

Madame Weiss, the chief of the troupe of dancing children, whose death we announced last week, has left the large fortune of 200,000 florins.

THE DRAMA.

How to engrave a story that shall interest, but not startle us by improbability, upon the habits, thoughts, and feelings of the present day, and develop it on the stage, is a problem that has not, we fear, been solved by Mr. Reade in his five-act drama of *Gold*, produced at DRURY-LANE on Monday last. Yet whatever may be the faults or shortcomings of this piece, there are indications throughout that these are not the result of carelessness or want of purpose; on the contrary, it would seem that whatever the author has done, good or bad, he has done intentionally. There is enough of plot and incident in *Gold* to show that the dramatist is not forgetful of the importance of construction in a modern drama; sufficient individuality of character and force of writing to prove that he does not consider these of no consequence; and such a mixture of real life with the old dra-

matic conventionalities, as to make us doubt whether the author could have done without these latter altogether. Unfortunately, however, the converse holds good on all these points; in plot and incident there are weaknesses; in character improbability; in language bombast, or what sounds very like it; and so much of the conventional, as almost to overwhelm and obliterate whatever is true and fresh in the pictures of life as it is. As may be supposed, emigration and "the diggings" form the subject matter of *Gold*. A young Berkshire farmer, unsuccessful in his agricultural pursuits, and thwarted in his affections by a scheming neighbour, departs for Australia, where he finds a nugget of untold value, and returns to imagine his mistress false, but eventually proves her true; and there is the story. For character there is a bucolic brother of the hero, who remains at home to watch over his interests—a London rogue, whom emigration and success improve into goodness and respectability—a benevolent though revengeful Jew of the Cossingsby school, with a touch of orientalism—a villain of the stage, *stagy*,—a divine formed in a like mould,—and, though last, not least in importance and originality, a sneaking clerk, whose presence rendered very amusing the scenes in which he appeared. Nor must we forget a dog who bounds across the stage at the end of *Act I.*, and follows the hero in his wanderings, and whose skin is amusingly reproduced to serve as a place for the concealment of the mineral treasures that form the subject of the piece. It will be seen that the action takes place first in England, then in Australia, and again in England. The weakness of the drama is in its fifth act, where the dramatic personae are brought together, and a happy conclusion worked out in the usual way; and its strength in a certain vein of truth and reality that runs throughout, and in the third and fourth acts, where the incidents and scenery of the gold-fields are very cleverly rendered available for dramatic purposes. The scene of the diggings, in which the requisite machinery is introduced, and the stage is covered with characteristic groups, at first sleeping, and afterwards actively employed, will no doubt render this drama sufficiently attractive to justify its production; but we are mistaken if the author has not sinned with his eyes open against some of the most important laws of art, and if he has not in pursuance of some impracticable success thrown away talents for dramatic writing and construction, that, rightly directed, might lead him to win the smiles of the judicious instead of the applause of the groundlings. The acting of *Gold* was not without merit. Mr. Davenport, who performed the hero, is one of the best actors of his school; Mr. H. Wallack, as the London rogue, was excellent, as was Mr. Selby in the little part of the sneaking clerk; and Miss Vining, as the heroine, never offended; her fault is rather the want of freshness and vigour. The piece was well got up and put on the stage, while the scenery, if not highly artistic, was effective and characteristic. There were some hisses at the fall of the curtain, but the chief part of the audience acquiesced in the announcement of repetition for "every evening until further notice." The pantomime improves on repetition, and altogether if the advance displayed in the next novelty is as great as from *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to *Gold*, we shall not despair of the successful occupation of Drury-Lane as a field for the production of effective melodramas.

VARIETIES.

Discovery of Old Coins.—An old cottage on a farm at Tenter-hill, in Whittingham, a portion of the glebe of Woodplumpton church, and as such the property of the Rev. Isaac Mossop, incumbent of Woodplumpton, having lately been undergoing some repairs, the work-people, in removing the thatch, came to a piece of old woollen cloth, containing a large number of silver coins, which appeared to have been concealed therein. The coins are 301 in number, and comprise crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, of the reigns of

Philip and Mary, Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., sovereigns of England, and some Spanish coins of the reign of Philip IV. When found they were almost black from soot, having been concealed in the roof, just over the soot loft. Those that have been cleaned appear to be in excellent preservation. From the circumstance of none of the coins being of later date than the reign of Charles I. it is conjectured that the hoard had been concealed by some careful housewife during the troubled times that marked the later years of the reign of the first Charles. The total weight of the "find" is more than 5lb., and its intrinsic value will be about 20l., though to numismatists, of course, the coins will be worth much more.—*The Times*.

Horatio Greenough.—Horatio Greenough died at Boston on the 18th December, of a brain fever. He was born in that city in 1805, received a liberal education, graduating at Harvard in 1825. He soon after left for Italy, where the greater part of the remainder of his life was passed. He rapidly rose to eminence as a sculptor by the excellence of his portrait busts, his group of the sleeping cherubs, executed for Cooper, the Novelist, in 1829, his *Medora*, the *Angel Abdiel*, and other ideal works. In 1833 he commenced his colossal *Washington*, which occupied him for ten years. It is a work which has elicited much criticism favourable and unfavourable. He has also executed another work for Government, a group typical of the conflict between civilization and savage life, which forms so prominent a part of the history of our country. The group is colossal, and represents a hunter rescuing a child from the murderous tomahawk of an Indian. It is on its way, at the leisurely pace with which intercourse with Italy is conducted, to this country. We saw this group some five years ago in an unfinished state in the artist's studio at Florence, and cannot doubt that it will be highly esteemed by the nation when it reaches its destination. Mr. Greenough returned home in 1851. He soon after commenced, in connexion with his brother artist Brown, a second statue of Washington, to be placed in Union Park, funds having been liberally subscribed by the residents of that neighbourhood to defray the expense. It is yet unfinished, but it is fortunately in the hands of an able coadjutor. Mr. Greenough will be deeply lamented by his friends as well as his nation. He was distinguished for urbanity and amiability, charming the many who visited him at his foreign home with the graceful ease and refinement of his manner, his hospitable kindness, and his animated and instructive conversation.—*New York Literary World*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. B., of Caen, has our thanks for his "Voice from the Quarries of Normandie," but his advice to emigrants has not sufficient novelty to recommend it for publication.

Puff.—*Philo-dramatist*, and J. T.—are answered by our article on "Theatres and the Press," pp. 64 and 65.

A Reader.—It has been thought expedient for several reasons to discontinue the Index of Contents.

L. M.—R. C. G.—An old Subscriber.—received.

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AMOUNT OF CAPITAL originally subscribed £600,000, on which has been paid up £30,000.

AMOUNT ACCUMULATED FROM PREMIUMS 660,000

ANNUAL INCOME 72,000

AMOUNT OF POLICIES IN EXISTENCE 1,540,000

By which it is seen that this Society possesses ample means in proportion to its liabilities.

* Personal appearance is only required by the Directors under particular circumstances.

It is to be observed that this Society does not allow any commission to agents and solicitors on each annual payment, which is the practice in many other offices, from whose divisible profits such yearly payments constitute a very considerable deduction; but this Society relies on its liberal mode of doing business, and the advantages it offers for its recommendation to the public.

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Persons assured in this office for the whole period of life may go by sea, during peace, without obtaining a licence or paying any extra premium, from any part of Europe to any other part of Europe.

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